A Discourse Concerning the GIFT of PRAYER.

SHEWING

What it is, wherein it consists, and how far it is attainable by Industry: With divers useful and proper Directions to that purpose, both in respect of Matter, Method, Expression.

By *JOHN WILKINS*, D. D.

Whereunto may be added,

ECCLESIASTES; OR, A DISCOURSE concerning the GIFT of PREACHING,

By the same Author.

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TO THE READER.

IT *may justly seem a wonder, that amongst the vast multitude of* Books, *wherewith the World doth abound, there should be so little written of this* Subject *here insisted upon, being of such great consequence, and general concernment.*

There is scarce any kind of Skill *or* Ability, *which may be taught and learnt, but it hath been reduced to an* Art, *and laid down according to some Rules and Method, for the more facil and full comprehension of it.*

How copious are the Treatises concerning human Oratory? *And divers have written particularly of the* Gift *of* Preaching, *besides the many* Examples *of it in* Homilies *or* Sermons. *And so likewise for the* Models *or* Patterns *of* Devotion, *which are very numerous, almost in all Languages.*

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But for the Gift *of* Prayer, *or the Rules whereby a man may be directed to an ability of expreſſing or pouring out his ſoul in this duty; there is (for ought I can find) but little written of it in any Language, though it be of ſuch general uſe for all kinds and profeſſions of men; and though the* Gift *be as much better than the* Pattern, *as the* Receipt *is better than the* Medicine.

I am very ſenſible, that the performance of this duty in a ſpiritual manner, *is from infuſion from above, and does not fall under the Rules of* Art; *but yet there are ſome ſpecial advantages in the performance of it, both for the furniſhing of the* Judgment, *and the exciting of the* Affections; *which a man may be ſupplied with by ſtudy and premeditation; and the enquiry after theſe, is the proper ſubject of this Diſcourſe.*

Every one will be ready to acknowledg it for an excellent Ability, when a man can readily ſuit his deſires unto ſeveral emergencies, and upon any occaſion pray without book; but many look upon it as being extream difficult, and not for an ordinary perſon to attain. That which is here endeavoured, is to make it plain and facil.

There are three ſpecial hindrances which do indiſpoſe men for this ſervice; want of Mat-

Matter, *and* Order, *and* Words; *for the ſupply of which, here is propoſed a copious field of* Matter, *a regular frame for* Method, *and Scripture phraſe for* Expreſſion, *which no man need be aſhamed to imitate or borrow.*

The knowledg and conſideration of theſe things, muſt needs be very uſeful for all Callings of men, (every one being concerned to perform the duty, *and conſequently to labour after the* Gift: *) Eſpecially for ſuch whoſe buſineſs it is, after a more peculiar manner* to give themſelves unto Prayer, and the Miniſtry of the Word. *And amongſt theſe, chiefly for ſuch younger, unexperienced men* who have not their ſenſes exerciſed *to diſcern what is proper and fitting; and therefore when they are put upon this ſervice, may be apt by their ignorance in this kind, to proſtitute the ſolemnity of this duty.*

This Diſcourſe was at firſt intended only for private uſe and direction, it was for the ſubſtance of it drawn up divers years ſince, as it is now repreſented, before I knew ſo much as any one Author who had formerly attempted this ſubject: Since that, I have met with, and peruſed the profitable Labours of ſome others in this kind. * *M.* El- * Abba Father.

[a] Holy Incense. [b] De Precatione. Guil. Parisiensis de Rhetorica divina. Wesselus Groningensis de Tract. 5.

nath Parre, [a] *M.* Clark, [b] Scultetus: *I have likewise consulted such other Treatises as did seem most nearly to border upon it: Not neglecting the Discourses of those who are stiled* Magistri rerum Spiritualium, *concerning the Rules they prescribe for* Mental *Prayer.*

Oratione. *Alfonsus Rodericus* Exerc. Perfectionis. de Oratione.

I have formerly published some other Preparations of a like nature, upon another subject, by which I am encouraged unto some hope that this likewise may be acceptable.

A DISCOURSE Concerning the GIFT of PRAYER.

CHAP. I.

What this Gift is, why aſcribed to the Spirit, the ingredients required to it.

THE true happineſs of every Chriſtian, does properly conſiſt in his ſpiritual *communion* with God.

This *communion* is chiefly exerciſed in thoſe two acts of Religion,

{Prayer.
{Hearing the Word.

Prayer may be conſidered under a two-fold notion, either as a {Duty. / Gift.

It is of very great concernment to every man, to be rightly acquainted with it in both theſe reſpects:

spects: How it *must* be *performed* as a *Duty*; and how it *may* be *attained* as a *Gift*.

I am at this time to discourse of it only in this latter sense: The *Gift* of Prayer may be thus described.

It is such a readiness and faculty, proceeding from the Spirit of God, whereby a man is enabled upon all occasions in a fitting manner to express and to enlarge the desires of his heart in this duty.

Unto the attaining of this Gift in its true latitude and fulness, there are three sorts of Ingredients required.

1. Something to be *infused* by the Spirit of God, who must sanctifie and spiritualize the judgment and affections, before we can either apprehend, or desire any thing as we should.

2. Some *natural* endowments and abilities disposing us for this Gift, as Readiness of Apprehension, Copiousness of Fancy, Tenderness of Affection, Confidence, and volubility of Speech, *&c.* which are very great advantages to this purpose, being naturally much more eminent in some, then in others.

3. Something to be *acquired* or gotten by our own industry. Namely, such a particular and distinct apprehension both of our sins and wants, and the mercies bestowed upon us, that we may be able to express the thoughts and dispositions of our minds concerning them, in such a decent form as may excite both in our selves and others, suitable affections.

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The first of these is by some stiled the *Spirit* of Prayer; the two latter the *Gift* of Prayer: the two first of these do not fall under the Rules of Art, being not to be taught or learnt; and therefore to these, our endeavours cannot of themselves contribute; the one being a special Grace, the other a common Gift of the Spirit, grounded upon innate propensity of temper or constitution: and so 'tis the third chiefly that concerns our present enquiry.

Each of these may be separated from one another. There may be true *Grace* in the heart, where there is but a very small measure either of this *natural* or *acquired* ability. And on the other side, a man may have the *Gift* of Prayer, who has not the *Spirit* of Prayer; that is, there may be a great degree of these common gifts in such as are altogether estranged from the life of grace. 'Tis probable, that *Judas* was eminent for these, and therefore was chosen an Apostle; and so those others, who at the last day shall plead for themselves, *Lord, have we not preached in thy name, and cast out Devils? &c.* They did all this *in his name*, that is, they were by him both outwardly *called* and *gifted* for these services. Pſa. 68. 18 Mat. 7. 22.

Such as have only the second of these, may sometimes exceed those that have the third; whence it comes to pass, that men of very ordinary parts, in respect of any *acquired* abilities, may be more ready and copious in this service, then those who in respect of other knowledg, are much beyond them.

But then only is this Gift compleat, when there

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is a joint concurrence of all theſe three ingredients, when the heart is ſanctified, and the natural abilities improved by induſtry.

That is a very appoſite Text to this purpoſe, and does treat particularly concerning this Subject *Prayer*, under the notion of a Gift, *Rom.* 8. 26. *The Spirit helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we ſhould pray for as we ought; but the Spirit it ſelf maketh interceſſion for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

The chief ſcope of that place may be compriſed in theſe three Propoſitions.

1. That of our ſelves we are very ignorant and impotent in this buſineſs of prayer, having many infirmities, not knowing what to pray for as we ought. Not but that a meer natural man, upon the ſenſe of any preſent want or danger, may apply himſelf unto this duty for remedy (as the Mariners in *Jonah*) this being a common inſtinct of nature, But to perform it *acceptably*, either for the *matter*, *what* we ſhould pray for; or the *manner*, *as we ought*; this is a buſineſs of much greater difficultly, becauſe it is required to be *according to the will of God*, verſ. 27. And *the natural man underſtands not the things of God, neither can he know them, becauſe they are ſpiritually diſcerned.* But *is diſobedient, and unto every good work reprobate*, ἀδόκιμος, *void of judgment*; being *alienated from the life of God, through the blindneſs that is in him.*

1 Cor. 2. 14. Tit. 1. 16. Eph. 4. 18

There is naturally in every man both an impotency of judgment, an enmity and averſneſs of deſire towards all holy duties in general, and parti-

particularly to this of Prayer: *We cannot order our ſpeech to God by reaſon of darkneſs*, ſaith *Elihu*; and therefore the Diſciples upon their firſt converſion, being ſenſible of their own diſability in this kind, they made their Addreſſes to our Saviour, that he might *teach them how to pray*. Job 37. 19. Luk. 11. 1

2. The Spirit of God muſt be our guide and aſſiſtant in this duty: He muſt *help our infirmities*, and make interceſſion for us. Not that the Holy Ghoſt is our Mediator of Interceſſion, that is properly the Office of the Son, who is therefore ſtyled *Our Advocate. There is one Mediator betwixt God and Man, the Man Chriſt Jeſus.* 'Tis he only that in reſpect of his Merits and Sufferings, does make interceſſion for us, *Rom.* 8. 34. But now, becauſe the Spirit of God does excite our hearts to prayer, and infuſe into us holy deſires, ſtirring us up, and inſtructing us in this duty; therefore is he ſaid to intercede for us. So *Gal.* 4. 6. there the Spirit is ſaid to cry *Abba Father: God hath ſent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba Father*; and yet *verſ.* 15. of that fore-cited place, 'tis ſaid, *We have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry Abba Father.* In which places being compared, the Spirit is ſaid to cry *Abba Father*, becauſe it makes us to do ſo: So he is ſaid to pray for us, becauſe he does inform and quicken us to pray for our ſelves. 1 Joh. 2. 1. 1 Tim. 2. 5 Rom. 8.

'Tis one of his peculiar Titles, to be ſtyled the *Spirit of Supplication*, becauſe of that ſpecial influence which he hath in the beſtowing of this gift. Zac. 12 10

Psa. 51. 15 gift. He must *open our lips, before our mouths can shew forth his praise.*

Not that the other Persons of the Trinity are excluded from a joint concurrence in this work: *Opera Trinitatis ad extra sunt indivisa*, All the actions of the blessed Trinity, (excepting only those that are of intrinsecal relation) being the undivided works of all the Three. But now be-
Dr. *Sanderson* in cause our gross understandings are not able to
1 Cor. 12. 7. conceive of this Trinity without some distinction of their Offices and Operations in reference to us; therefore does the Scripture condescend so far to our capacities, as to speak of these common works by way of *Appropriation.* Thus *Power* and *Creation* is commonly ascribed to the *Father*; *Wisdom* and *Redemption* to the *Son*; *Goodness* and all habitual *Graces* or *Gifts*, to the *Holy Ghost.*

These general Operations of the Spirit, are usually distinguished into two sorts:

Either { Χάρις. } Grace.
{ Χάρισμα. } Gift.

Or in the common expression of the Schools, there is, 1. *Gratia gratum faciens*, which refers to those gifts of *Sanctification* that do more especially concern *our own* happiness. 2. There is *gratia gratis data*, which concerns gifts of *Edification*, whereby we are made useful to *others*, according to our several stations.

Of the first kind are all those spiritual Graces, Faith, Repentance, Humility, *&c.* infused into us in our Regeneration.

Unto

Unto the other are reducible all kind of *secondary endowments* or abilities whatsoever that belong to the reasonable soul (excepting only those *first Faculties* that flow immediately *à principiis speciei* and are in all men alike:) I say, all kind of abilities or good habits, are reducible under this Head; Whether or no they are by extraordinary and *immediate infusion*, as were those gifts in the Primitive times of Tongues, Miracles, Healing, &c. 1 *Cor.* 12. Dr. *Sanderson*, ib.

Or whether they are *natural* abilities, arising from mens several tempers and dispositions; as strength of Judgment, quickness of Fancy, warmness of Affection, readiness of Speech.

Or else, whether they are *intellectual* habits, which are acquired and perfected by Education, Industry, Experience; as when men become skilful in any particular Art or profession. That skill of *Bezaliel* and *Aholiab*, for those curious artificial works of the Tabernacle, to work in Gold, and Silver, and Brass, and cutting of Stones, and carving of Wood, was from the *Spirit of God*, Exod. 35 31. The secular Policy of *Achitophel*, the natural Wisdom of *Solomon*, the Skill of the Plow-man, both in sowing and threshing, does proceed from the same Spirit, from whom every good and perfect gift does come. In brief, when men become skilful and expert in any faculty, whether Disputing, Oratory, Preaching, Praying, *&c.* each of these does proceed from the *Spirit of God*, as the *principal* Author of them; *dividing to every man severally as he will.* All other helps, whether from nature Isa. 28. 26 29. 1 Cor. 12. 11.

nature or industry; being but *secondary*, *subordinate* Aids, which are by him made effectual for the accomplishing of these ends. That question of the Apostle being fitly appliable unto all preheminencies of this kind, *Who made thee to differ from another?* And *what hast thou that thou hast not received?* 1 Cor. 4. 7.

So then, All kind of good habits or abilities, and particularly this Gift of Prayer, with the several degrees or ingredients of it, are to be ascribed unto the Spirit of God, as being the chief Donor of them.

3. This gift of the Spirit, is not barely by infusion, but by assisting our endeavours, by helping together with us, *Συναντιλαμβάνεται, collaborantes adjuvat*: He helpeth together with, and over against us, (so the Original word does properly signifie) as when another man sets to his shoulder, to bear a part with us in our lifting of any burden: We must put forth our best endeavours, and then we shall not want his assistance. The Spirit of God does ordinarily work by means, and it is an old rule in Divinity, *Habitus infusi infunduntur per modum acquisitorum: Infused* habits are usually wrought in us after the same manner as *acquired*; that is, gradually, and not without humane endeavour and co-operation.

In the Primitive times indeed, when the Church was in its *Infancy*, then the teat was put into their mouths, they were extraordinarily inspired with these Gifts by immediate infusions, without the usual means of study and labour, but that

that *Manna* was only for the *Wilderneſs*, when other common wayes could not be made uſe of; whereas, when the Church is grown up to the eſtate of *Manhood*, and is *poſſeſſed of the Land*, God does now expect that we ſhould plow, and ſow, and eat the fruit of the Earth in the ſweat of our brows; that we ſhould ſerve his Providence, and depend upon him only in the uſe of means: and as *Children* do not learn to ſpeak diſtinctly, but after many trials; ſo neither can *a Chriſtian* be able (as he ſhould) to cry *Abba Father*, till he has beſtowed ſome time and experience in the learning of it.

CHAP. II.

Two Extreams that make men defective in this Gift: Confining themſelves wholly to ſet-forms. Depending wholly upon ſudden ſuggeſtions.

FRom what hath been already ſaid, 'tis eaſie to infer, that there are two extreams which uſually hinder men from a Proficiency in this Gift.

1. When they ſo confine themſelves to the help of Books and particular ſet-forms, as not to aim at, or attempt after any further improve-

ment of their own knowledg and abilities in this kind.

2. When men depend altogether upon ſudden ſuggeſtions, as if it were a quenching, or confinement of the Spirit, to be furniſhed before-hand with Matter or Expreſſions for this ſervice.

Unto thoſe that err in the firſt kind, I would ſuggeſt theſe conſiderations:

Firſt, by way of conceſſion: As for thoſe weaker Chriſtians, and new Converts, who have not their hearts enlarged with an ability to expreſs their own wants and deſires, 'tis both lawful and convenient for ſuch to help themſelves, not only in their *Families*, but even in their *ſecret* performance of this duty, by the uſe of ſome good Book, or preſcribed form, until by farther endeavour and experience they may attain unto ſome meaſure of this Gift.

Such perſons may perhaps find oftentimes their own caſe and condition more pithily and affectionately ſet down in a Prayer penn'd by another, then they are able to expreſs it themſelves. And if the uſe of ſuch a form do prove a means to warm their Affections, and inkindle their Grace, certainly then it cannot be juſtly ſtyled a quenching of the Spirit. 'Tis not *eſſential* unto the nature of Prayer, that it be either read, or rehearſed by memory, or by immediate and ſudden ſuggeſtion; (theſe things being ſuch *circumſtantial* adjuncts, as have not any abſolute intrinſecal neceſſity or unlawfulneſs) but rather that it be delivered with underſtanding and

ſuitable affections, with humility and confidence, and an inward ſenſe of our conditions. Nor is there any great difference (as they are conſidered in themſelves) betwixt repeating by memory, and reading out of a *Book*; the memory being but a kind of inviſible Book for the regiſter of our thoughts: though in this caſe it ſhould be ſpecially remembred, that in the uſe of ſuch preſcript forms, to which a man hath been accuſtomed, he ought to be narrowly watchful over his own heart, for fear of that lip-ſervice and formality, which in ſuch caſes we are more eſpecially expoſed unto. This I thought good to premiſe for the removal of prejudice on the one hand.

But now in the ſecond place, for any one ſo to ſet down and ſatisfie himſelf with his Book-prayer, or ſome preſcript form, as to go no farther, this were ſtill to remain in his Infancy, and not to grow up in his new nature: This would be, as if a man who had *once* need of crutches, ſhould *always* afterwards make uſe of them, and ſo neceſſitate himſelf to a continual Impotency. 'Tis the duty of every Chriſtian to grow and encreaſe in all the duties of Chriſtianity, as well *Gifts* as *Graces*; to exerciſe and improve every holy gift, and not to ſtifle any of thoſe abilities, wherewith God hath endowed them: Now how can a man be ſaid to live ſuitable unto theſe Rules, who does not put forth himſelf in ſome attempts and endeavours of this kind? And then beſides, how can ſuch a man ſuit his deſires unto ſeveral emergencies? What

one ſays of *counſel* to be had from Books, may be fitly applied to this *Prayer* by book; That 'tis commonly of it ſelf, ſomething flat and dead, floating for the moſt part too much in *generalities*, and not *particular* enough for each ſeveral occaſion. There is not that life and vigour in it, to engage the affections, as when it proceeds immediately from the ſoul it ſelf, and is the natural expreſſion of thoſe particulars, whereof we are moſt ſenſible.

And if it be a fault not to ſtrive and labour after this Gift, much more is it to jeer and deſpiſe it by the name of *ex tempore Prayer*, and praying *by the Spirit*; which expreſſions (as they are frequently uſed by ſome men by way of reproach) are for the moſt part a ſign of a prophane heart, and ſuch as are altogether ſtrangers from the power and comfort of this duty.

Whereas 'tis commonly objected by ſome, That they cannot ſo well joyn in an unknown Form, with which they are not beforehand acquainted. I anſwer, That's an inconſiderate objection, and does oppoſe all kind of Forms that are not publickly preſcribed. As a man may in his *judgment* aſſent unto any divine *truth* delivered in a *Sermon*, which he never heard before; ſo may he join in his *affections* unto any holy *deſire* in a *Prayer*, which he never heard before. If he who is the mouth of the reſt, ſhall through imprudence deliver that which we cannot approve of, God does not look upon it as our Prayer, if our deſires do not ſay *Amen* to it.

If it be again objected, That this ability of pray-

praying without book, may perhaps be fit for Miniſters, and ſuch as are of more eminent learning and knowledg, but it is not to be expected from others.

I anſwer, 'Tis true, ſuch perſons are more eſpecially concerned in this *Gift*, and 'tis the greater fault and ſhame for them to be without it; but yet *others* are not exempted from labouring after it, no more then they are from the occaſions or need of it, or performing the *Duty*. And as for the pretended difficulty of it, I ſhall in this Diſcourſe make it evident, that if it be but *ſeriouſly* attempted (as all religious buſineſſes ought to be) 'tis eaſie to be attained by any one that has but common capacity.

Unto thoſe that are in the other extream, depending altogether upon ſudden infuſion, and neglecting to prepare themſelves for this ſervice by ſtudy or premeditation, unto ſuch I would propoſe theſe conſiderations:

1. By way of Conceſſion. 'Tis true, a man ought not to tie himſelf ſo preciſely to any particular form of words (though of his own compoſing, and fitted to his condition) but that he may either add or alter, according as any emergent occaſion, or ſome new affection ſuggeſted ſhall require. Sometimes perhaps he ſhall feel his heart more warm, his deſires more vigorous, and his expreſſions more copious and ready. And in this caſe he ſhould not ſuffer himſelf to be ſtraitned, or confined within any old form, but may expatiate more freely, according as he finds his inward enlargments.

But then in the ſecond place, this does not hinder, but that *generally* 'tis both lawful and neceſſary to prepare our ſelves, as for this Gift in *general*, ſo for every particular act of it, by premeditating (if we have leiſure for it) both Matter, and Order, and Words. For though it be a gift of the Spirit, yet 'tis not to be expected that it ſhould ſuddenly be infuſed into us, without any precedent endeavours of our own; no more than the Gift of Preaching, for which the ableſt Miniſters are bound to prepare themſelves with diligence and ſtudy; there being not any ground for a man to expect more immediate ſupplies from above, in the duty of Prayer, than in that of Preaching.

But here it ſhould be conſidered, that there is in this buſineſs of preparation, great difference to be allowed for, in reſpect of { Perſons. / Times.

1. There is a vaſt diſtance betwixt the abilities of ſeveral *Perſons*, even thoſe that have been practiſed and experienced in this kind; ſome being naturally of a warmer temper, more eaſie affections, and ready expreſſion; others more cold and ſlow in each of theſe. Now the ſame ſtudy and ſtrictneſs, in the preparation of Matter and Words, is not alike required from each of theſe. The proportion of Gifts which any man hath received, is the meaſure of his work and duty: To whom much is given, of him much will be required, in reſpect of *prehemineuce* and *ability*: And *when the iron is blunt, a man*

muſt

muſt put to the more ſtrength, in reſpect of *care* and *diligence*; one of theſe ought to be the more *able* and *eminent*, the other ought to be the more *ſtudious*.

The meaſure of one man's Gifts is not a rule for another man to work by, or to be cenſured by. And therefore (by the way) 'tis a great miſtake in thoſe who are apt to judg one man, as coming ſhort of his *duty*, becauſe he hath not the ſame eminency of *Gifts* with another; though ſuch an one perhaps can, with fitting, proper expreſſions, enlarge himſelf in this duty upon any ſudden occaſion, yet he ſhould not condemn another that cannot. Our *abilities* are not rules for *other mens actions: God accepteth* 2 Cor. 8. *according to what a man hath, and not according* 12. *to what a man hath not*. In reſpect of *duty* we ſhould labour to emulate the beſt; but in matter of *Gifts*, as we muſt not neglect the means of improving them, ſo we muſt be content with our portion, though we come behind others.

'Tis true, if our affections could always *lead* our Prayers, then the expreſſion would be more facil, and the premeditation might be the leſs. Becauſe there will be ſometime a neceſſity that our affections ſhould *follow*, and be ſtirred up by our expreſſions, which is eſpecially to be aimed at when we pray in publick, (in reference to thoſe that joyn with us) and will very often fall out likewiſe in our ſecret devotions; therefore 'tis requiſite that a man ſhould be always furniſhed with ſuch premeditated forms, as may

be moſt effectual to this end, namely, to excite the affections.

And to this purpoſe, if thoſe heads, which will be always pertinent, and of continual neceſſity, were comprehended in ſome ſet-form, ſtudied with care and diligence, they might perhaps be more ſerviceable for the ſtirring up of our faith and affections, then they could otherwiſe be, if they did proceed only from our own ſudden conceptions.

2. We ſhould likewiſe diſtinguiſh betwixt the ſeveral *times* and occaſions of performing this duty, when we are call'd to it, either *publickly* with others, or *ſecretly* betwixt God and our own ſouls. Now there is not the ſame degree of premeditation and duty required for each of theſe; A man may in ſecret take a greater liberty to enlarge himſelf in ſuch ſudden expreſſions, as are not in themſelves perhaps ſo proper and ſignificant, which yet may be ſuitable to the preſent intention, becauſe they ſet forth his own immediate thoughts. But now when we are to be the mouth of others, then our buſineſs muſt be to engage their affections that join with us; and therefore our expreſſions here ſhould be ſo proper and deliberate, as may be moſt effectual to this end; now ſuch kind of unpremeditated forms as may ſerve well enough to ſet forth our own deſires, will not perhaps be ſo proper to excite anothers.

That is certainly the fitteſt *form*, which does moſt adequately anſwer the chief *end* of Prayer, namely, to ſtir up the affections, and expreſs

the

the desires: Now this in our publick Devotions, where we are to joyn with others, and to make impression upon them, I say, in such cases this may generally better be done by study and premeditation, then by leaving it to sudden conceptions. Such crude notions, and confused matter, as some men by their neglect in this kind will vent, does rather nauseate and flat the Devotion then excite it.

And therefore upon such occasions, we should take care that our expressions be so weighty, and serious, as may be suitable to the end and solemnity of this service; and the less any man's former practise and experience hath been, by so much the greater ought his wariness and study to be at such times.

And here I cannot but observe two kind of imprudencies, with which good men are sometimes apt to be overtaken, an affectation of *length*, and an affectation of continual *varying their phrase*, when as their inward enlargments do not perhaps fit them for either.

And by this means, they become exposed unto some empty, impertinent, unseemly expressions. They should consider, that though it be in it self very useful, and argues an excellent ability to do these things well; yet there may be too great an affectation of them. And then besides, neither is every man, nor perhaps any man at all times fit for them; I mention these only as right-hand infirmities, upon which prophane men will be apt to take great advantages, and to confirm themselves in their prejudices, and therfore every

ry prudent Chriſtian ſhould be watchful againſt them.

There is nothing more unſuitable to the ſolemnity of this duty, to that reverence which we owe unto the divine Majeſty, than to beſpeak him in a looſe, careleſs, empty manner. Though God is not bettered by any thing we can give or do, all our ſervices being to him as nothing; yet he is pleaſed to eſteem of them by their commenſuration to us, if in reſpect of our abilities they are the beſt: And with any thing below our beſt, we cannot expect he ſhould be ſatisfied. All kind of worſhip ſhould proceed from a deſire and ſtudy to honour God, and therefore ought to be performed with our utmoſt care and abilities. Under the Law, men were bound to ſacrifice unto God the beſt of their ſubſtance; and if Sacrifice be a type of Prayer, then alſo we are bound to pray unto him in the beſt manner and form that we can invent; and conſequently in a premeditated form, when that may be moſt effectual to direct us in our deſires, and to ſtir up our affections. The multiplicity of our wants, the unfaithfulneſs of our memories, the dulneſs and ſlowneſs of our apprehenſions, the common extravagancies of our thoughts, will all require our beſt care for the remedy of them, and Premeditation may be a very proper means for this purpoſe.

Job 9. 14. Mr. *Caryl.* *Job* ſpeaks of *chooſing out his words*, to reaſon with God. As it is amongſt perſons and things, ſo it is amongſt expreſſions too; ſome are *choice* and *beautiful*, others *refuſe* and *improper*. Now a man ſhould be careful to ſelect the fitteſt words

words to expreſs himſelf in this duty. And 'tis a very ſolemn caveat which the Wiſe man gives, Eccleſ. 5. 2. *Be not raſh with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be haſty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth, Therefore let thy words be few.* As if he ſhould have ſaid, When thou doſt approach before the Divine Majeſty in the duty of Prayer, be ſure that thou firſt ponder with thy ſelf the greatneſs of that buſineſs; and ſettle and compoſe thy thoughts to the ſolemn performance of it. Beware of crude, tumultuary meditations; of idle, impertinent, wild expreſſions; take heed of all empty repetitions, digreſſions, prolixity. For God is moſt glorious and wiſe, whereas thou art a poor unworthy creature; and therefore ſhouldſt not dare to beſpeak him without a great deal of fear and preparation. *Let thy words be few*; not that brevity or fewneſs of words is the proper excellency of Prayer; God is as little taken with that, as with the length of them; he is not wearied and tired as men are: But becauſe thoſe that ſpeak little, do probably ſtudy and ponder more upon what they ſay.

And to this purpoſe 'tis ſaid, that the wiſe Preacher ſought out, and gave good heed to find and to ſet in order *acceptable words*, Eccleſ. 12. 10. and of ſuch words 'tis ſaid in the next verſe, that they will prove as *goads* and *nails* faſtned by the Maſters of Aſſemblies, that is, when they are deliberate and proper, they will leave a ſtrong and laſting impreſſion upon the hearers.

If it be objected, that ſet forms are properly help-

helps of inſufficiency, and therefore ſhould not be uſed by thoſe that have abilities of their own.

It may be anſwered, Though Set-forms made by others, be as a crutch or *help* of our *inſufficiency*, yet thoſe which we compoſe of our ſelves, are a *fruit* of our *ſufficiency*; and may likewiſe prove a very great advantage for the more ſolemn performance of this Duty (eſpecially in publick, and with others) both for direction of our deſires, and exciting of our affections: Though a man ought not to be ſo confined by any premeditated form, as to neglect any ſpecial infuſion. He ſhould ſo prepare himſelf, as if he expected no aſſiſtance; and he ſhould ſo depend upon Divine aſſiſtance, as if had made no preparation.

If it be objected again, That men ought to rely upon that promiſe, *Dabitur in illa hora*, Matt. 10. 19. *Take no thought what ye ſhall ſpeak, for it ſhall be given you in that ſame hour.*

I anſwer, 'Tis true, when God does call men to extraordinary ſervices, of which that Scripture ſpeaketh, he doth accordingly fit them with extraordinary aſſiſtance. But yet when men may uſe the common means, 'tis there a great preſumption to depend upon extraordinary help. That's
Eccle. 18. 23. a remarkable ſaying of the Son of *Syrach*, *Before thou prayeſt, prepare thy ſelf; and be not as one that tempts the Lord.* He that ruſheth upon this duty, without uſing the common means of fiting himſelf for it, doth tempt God; for to tempt God, is to expect any thing from him, without uſing the ordinary helps. So our Saviour anſwered the

the Devil, when he would have perſwaded him to fling himſelf from the Temple, when as there were ſtairs for deſcent, *Matth.* 4. 7. *Thou ſhalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* And of this fault are thoſe guilty, who depend ſo much upon immediate infuſion, as to neglect all premeditation or previous ſtudy.

If any ſhould think that that phraſe of the Apoſtle, of *Praying with the Spirit*, doth imply a total reſignation of a man's ſelf to his immediate ſuggeſtions; that may eaſily appear to be a groſs miſtake; for in the very ſame place, 1 *Cor.* 14. 14, 15. He ſpeaks likewiſe of *ſinging with the Spirit*. And I preſume no man would think it fitting to relie wholly upon his bare infuſions of the duty of Singing, without preparation both of *matter* and *words* too.

I have been the longer upon this Subject, becauſe I would willingly remove thoſe inconſiderate prejudices which ſome of good affections may be tranſported with, in this point; and that this holy duty might not ſo often ſuffer in the ſolemnity of it, by men's preſumptions and negligence in this kind.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Arguments or Motives to excite men unto the labour after this Gift.

HAving thus discourſed concerning the *nature* of this Gift, together with the two *extreams*, which on either hand do ſo much hinder mens proficiency in it; I ſhall in the next place briefly ſuggeſt ſome few arguments or motives, to engage us upon the diligent enquiry after it.

1. From the *Excellency* of it in compariſon to thoſe other abilities, which are ſo much valued, and ſought after in the world. As for *Manual* Trades, men are content to beſtow the labour of ſeven years in the learning of them. And ſo for the *Liberal* Arts, you know what numerous and large volums are written concerning them; how much time and pains men will lay out in the ſtudy of them, counting their labour well beſtowed, if after many tedious watchings, they can attain to any kind of eminency in theſe profeſſions; And yet theſe things can only accommodate us with ſome outward conveniencies, and help us in our *converſing with men*; whereas this Gift of Prayer is of much higher, more univerſal efficacy, and does enable us to *converſe with God*, and therefore may much better deſerve our inquiry. 'Tis counted a commendable thing for men to have any ſpecial skill in Arts, that are meerly for *recreation* and diverſion of the mind: How much more

more in this Gift, which is the chief refuge and *refreshment* of the soul in all its dejections? 'Tis a desirable thing to be expert in *human* Oratory, whereby we are able, in ordinary affairs, to perswade and prevail with *men*: How much more in this *divine* Oratory, which in matters of nearest and greatest concernment, does give us power to prevail with *God*?

2. From the *Suitableness* and *Necessity* of it, in respect of that Religion which we profess, unto which this Gift is of such great consequence, and has such immediate relation. An ingenuous man would be ashamed to pretend unto any Art or faculty, wherein he is grosly ignorant: So may that man be to profess Religion, who neglects to attain this Gift. A Christian that cannot pray, is like an Orator that cannot speak, or a Traveller that cannot go; there being no other ability more necessary for us in our *particular* callings, as we are *Artists*, then this is for our *general* callings, as we are *Christians*. Now as a man would be loth, either to be, or to be accounted ignorant in the mysteries of his profession, so should it be a shame to us to be very defective or negligent in this Gift. 'Tis part of our spiritual Armour; and for a Soldier to be without any skill in the use of his Arms, is both an unsuitable and a dangerous condition.

3. From the special *Advantages* and fruits of this Gift; enabling a man upon all occasions to relate his condition, according to the special circumstances of it; to suit his desires and expressions according to several emergencies, which in the

the midſt of all our dejections and tumultuous thoughts, will be a means to induce a quietneſs and ſerenity of mind, if a man can but pour out his ſoul, and lay open his caſe before God. So that by this means he may have a continual ſupply of comfort upon every occaſion; beſides thoſe ſpecial raptures and elevations of ſpirit which men that are much converſant in this duty, and inquiſitive after this Gift, ſhall ſometimes be affected with.

4. From the *Inconveniencies* that a man ſhall be expoſed unto by the want of it, when he is ſurpriſed by any ſudden exigence, or lies under any great ſtrait, wherein he cannot expect any help but from the Hand of God; (as who is there that can promiſe himſelf a continual freedom from ſuch extremities, but that they may at ſome time or other befall him?) I ſay, that in ſuch a caſe a man ſhould not know how to relate his own condition, or to beſpeak Gods aſſiſtance, without having recourſe to ſome preſcribed Form, which perhaps hath no proper reference to the particular occaſion, how inconvenient and prejudicial would this be? Our liberty of recourſe to God in ſuch caſes, is one of the greateſt priviledges of a Chriſtian; and therefore our ignorance in the due manner or proper way of this addreſs, muſt needs be a great diſadvantage, there being but little difference betwixt not having a Medicine, and not knowing how to apply or make uſe of it.

True indeed, the beſt men have *ſometimes* found ſuch a ſtraitneſs upon their ſpirits, and ſuch unaptneſs for expreſſions, that they have not

been

been able to pour out their ſouls in this duty, but then they have ſtill complained of this, as being a great diſcomfort and unhappineſs. So *Hezekiah*, *I did chatter as a Swallow, and mourn as a Dove; mine eyes fail with looking upwards.* And *David*, *Behold how I mourn in my prayer, and make a noiſe.* And therefore it muſt needs be a much greater unhappineſs to be *always* in this condition, and under a continual diſability of expreſſing our own wants and deſires in this duty. Iſa. 18. 14 Pſal. 55. 2

Theſe particulars rightly conſidered, cannot but inflame our hearts unto an earneſt deſire of this Gift.

CHAP. IV.

The general *Directions for the attaining of this Gift; namely,* Rules *and* Practiſe. *Some* Particular *Rules to engage the* affections *in this ſervice. What we are to do upon any invincible indiſpoſition or averſneſs from it.*

THE next thing to be diſcuſſed, is concerning the Means or Directions for the more facil attaining of this Gift: where there are theſe two general things to be preſcribed; namely, *Rules* and *Practiſe*, which

are likewiſe neceſſary for all other acquired habits.

1. Without *Rules* a man will be apt to go compaſs, and roving in the enquiry after this Gift, not the ſhorteſt and moſt proper way.

2. Without frequent *Practice*, according to theſe Rules, he ſhall never attain this habit. 'Tis not the bare knowledg of a way, without walking in it, that will bring a man to his journeys end. Habits are both *acquired* and *improved* by exerciſe. Thoſe things that we learn *for* practiſe, we learn *by* practiſe (ſaith the *Philoſopher.*) And that is one reaſon why many ignorant men do ſometimes in this Gift excel thoſe that are much more eminent for learning and knowledg; becauſe, though theſe do better underſtand the *Rules* and *Theory*, yet the other do practiſe more, and by that means attain to a greater readineſs and facility in this Gift; and this likewiſe is the reaſon why in theſe latter times, divers men have attained to a greater prehe-minence this way, then was uſual heretofore, becauſe formerly this kind of ſtudy and endeavour was leis in uſe: Men did generally confine themſelves to particular forms, and not make it their buſineſs to improve in this abihty.

The *Rules* to this purpoſe, are chiefly of two kinds; namely, ſuch as concern,

1. The ſtirring up of the Affections.
2. The informing and furniſhing of the Judgment.

1. 'Tis convenient that the Affections ſhould be

be ſo engaged in this ſervice, as that they may lead the way, and guide us, both in our *matter* and *expreſſion*; to which purpoſe the moſt proper means will be to get a clear and diſtinct apprehenſion of our own conditions in theſe two reſpects.

1. In reſpect of that *neceſſity* that lies upon us.

2. In regard of that *poſſibility* which there is of obtaining by this means help and ſupply. Theſe two arguments will be of greateſt efficacy to excite the affections.

1. We muſt labour to work in our ſelves a true ſenſe of our own *neceſſity*. A Malefactor that is preſently to be ſentenced, and executed, will not need any Prompter to quicken his deſire of pardon. Men that are in ſuch a condition (ſaith *Pariſienſis*) *Nullum habent doctorem, qui illos ſuppliare doceat, & precari non habent librum, quem inſipientes, accipiant inde diſertitudinem illam deprecationis*; will not need any Maſter to teach them how to ſupplicate, nor any Book out of which they might learn a ſet-form of petitioning. The apprehenſion of their preſent danger, will make them both importunate and eloquent in the deſire of mercy. And thus will it be in proportion with every one, as he does apprehend his own neceſſity, in reſpect of any want or danger. To which purpoſe, that grace of *Humility* will be of ſpecial advantage, which is always ſenſible of its own need and poverty; and the more it does receive, by ſo much the more does it bemoan its own indigence. *De Rhetorica diviña*, cap. 16

Now, when a man has brought his heart to

this temper, it will be moſt proper for him to lay aſide all needleſs artifice or affectation, behaving himſelf in his Addreſſes unto God, with the ſame plainneſs and ſimplicity, as we uſe to do with men. Let him ſeriouſly conſider, 1. What ſins thoſe are, which (if he were now to die) would moſt affright his Conſcience: Confeſs them in particular, aggravate and bewail them. 2. What that is, he would chuſe above all other things to deſire of God, if he were ſure to have his wiſh: Pardon, Grace, Perſeverance, Contentment, Heaven, Protection, &c. and let him beg each of theſe, urging the promiſe to this purpoſe. 3. How his condition does differ from others below him. What bleſſing there is that he could leaſt ſpare. Others, perhaps, are wretchedly ignorant, prophane, neceſſitous, ſick, &c. whereas he is exempted, and therefore ought to give thanks for each of theſe enjoyments.

And in the mention of theſe, he may pour out his thoughts in the moſt obvious expreſſions: As ſuppoſe after this manner; O Lord my God, I am at this preſent guilty of ſuch or ſuch a ſin, which I have relapſed into, notwithſtanding my conviction and promiſes: I deſire to be humbled for it, and to renew my reſolutions againſt it; and do earneſtly beg thy mercy in pardoning of it, thy Grace to ſtrengthen me for the future. There is ſuch a bleſſing I ſtand in great need of; 'tis not in mine own power to procure it; thou canſt eaſily, and thou haſt promiſed to beſtow it, &c. There is ſuch a mercy which I ſee other men

men want, and this makes their condition sad and miserable; and therefore I desire to be truly sensible of thy favour in my enjoyment of it.

Thus going over particulars in the most facil natural expressions, and if new matter does not presently occur, a man need not therefore break off his exercise, but may take some time to meditate and consider of his condition, to recollect some other particulars.

'Tis not necessary that he should still keep on in this duty in a continued frame of speech (I speak of our secret Closet-devotions betwixt God and our own souls; for as for publick Prayer wherein we are to joyn with others, though but in a family, we ought there to be more close and exact in our preparations, as being to work upon the affections of those that joyn with us:) But I say, in these private devotions a man may take a greater freedom, both for his phrase and matter; he may be sometime at a stand, and make a pause: There may be many intermissions and blank spaces in respect of speech, wherein by meditation he may recover some new matter to continue in this duty.

Now to him that shall attempt it after this manner, it will not be very difficult to pray in private, without the help of books, or prescribed forms. And 'tis not easie to express what a vast difference a man may find, in respect of inward comfort and satisfaction, betwixt those private Prayers that are thus conceived from the affections, and those prescribed forms

which we ſay by rote, or read out of Books.

This will be one good way ſo to engage the affections upon this ſervice, that they may go before, and lead us on in the particular ſubject of our prayers, in which, frequent practice will make a man very expert; eſpecially, if by obſervation he be furniſhed with a treaſury of the moſt proper matter and expreſſions to this purpoſe; whereby, when his affections are dull and indiſpoſed, he may be able to quicken them. For as the affections, when they are vigorous, will guide us unto matter and expreſſions; ſo when they are heavy and dull, then premeditated matter and expreſſion will help to excite them, theſe being of mutual efficacy and advantage. But of this I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak afterwards.

2. Beſides the ſenſe of our own *neceſſity*, 'tis requiſite likewiſe that a man ſhould apprehend the *Poſſibility* of receiving help and ſupply by this means. A poor beggar will with much patience and diligence attend that door, where he is confident of obtaining an Alms; and till a man be thus perſwaded, he can never be earneſt in his deſires. To this purpoſe that grace of *faith* is ſo often required for the right performance of this duty; and for the ſtrengthening of this, God is pleaſed to give us leave to argue with him, *Iſa.* 1. 16, 18 He invites thoſe that are waſhed and reformed, to reaſon with him, *Come now, and let us reaſon together, ſaith the Lord, &c.* *Rogat efficaciſſimo qui cauſas rogandi reddit.* That man does beg moſt powerfully, who backs his requeſts with arguments. And the Scriptures do afford us frequent

Plin. Epiſt. *lib.* 2.

quent examples of such humble and reverent expostulations, wherein holy men have with many reasons pleaded their cause before God. So *Jacob*, Gen 32. 11, 12. And *Moses*, Exod. 32. 11, 12. And *David* very frequently. Not that any of our Arguments are able to move and alter him, in whom there is no *shadow of change*: But they may be effectual in the strengthning of our own faith and fervency, which is the proper scope and end of them.

The usual Topicks to this purpose, do concern either { God. / Our selves.

1. The Arguments from *Gods Nature* and *Attributes*, are reducible to some of these heads.

1. From his *Power*. So *Moses* argues with him, *O Lord God, who hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand; for what God is there in heaven, or in the earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might? I pray thee*, &c. Thus *Jehoshaphat* pleads, 2 *Chron.* 20. 6. *O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? And rulest not thou over all the Kingdoms of the Heathen? and in thine hand is there not power, and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?* Deut. 3. 24. Psa. 86. 8, 19.

2. From his *Wisdom* and *Providence*, Job 36. 5. *God is mighty in strength and wisdom.* Psal. 59. 23. Let it be known *that God ruleth in Jacob, and unto the ends of the earth.* He is the *onely wise God*, 1 Tim. 1. 17. who *maketh every thing beautiful in his time*, Eccles. 3. 11. Jer. 10. 12. Dan. 2. 20, 21.

3. From his *Justice*, Psal. 5. 3, 4. *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord, for thou art*

not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness; neither shall evil dwell with thee. Psal. 143. 1. *Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplication; in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.*

4. From his *Truth.* Psal. 69. 13. *O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.* 2 Sam. 7. 28. *And now, O Lord God, thou art that God, and thy words be true; and thou hast*
Psal. 86. 5 *promised this goodness unto thy servant; therefore*
& 15. *now let it please thee, &c.*

5. From his *Mercies.* Psal. 6. 4. *O save me for thy mercies sake.* Psal. 25. 6. *Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies, and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.* Isa. 63. 15. *Look down from*
Dan. 9. 18 *heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness, and thy glory: where is thy zeal, and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels, and of thy mercies towards me? are they restrained?*

6. From his *Glory.* Josh. 7. 9. *What wilt thou do unto thy great Name?* 2 King. 17. 19 *Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out*
Verse 9. *of his hands, that all the Kingdoms of the earth may know, that thou art the Lord God, even thou only.*
Psal. 109. Verse 21. Psal. 79. 10. *Wherefore should the heathen say, where is their God?* Jer. 14. 21. *Do not abhor us, for thy Names sake; do not disgrace the Throne of thy glory.*
Neh. 9. 8. 7. From his *Covenant* and *Promise.* 1 King. 8. 25, 26. *O Lord God of Israel, keep with thy ser-*
Numb. 23 19. *vant David my Father, that thou promisedst him, &c. And now O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified which thou spakest unto him, &c.* Psal. 74. 10. *O deliver not the soul of thy Turtle unto the multitude of the wicked, forget not the Congre-*

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gation of the poor for ever. Have reſpect unto the Covenant, &c. Jer. 14. 21. *Remember, break not thy Covenant with us.*

8. From his *Command* of calling upon him, and appointing this Ordinance as the means of our help and ſupply in any condition. *Pſal* 27 8. *Thou ſaidſt, ſeek ye my face; my heart anſwered, Thy face, Lord, will I ſeek.* Pſal. 50. 51. *Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou ſhalt glorifie me:* Pſal. 86. 5. *For thou Lord art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.* Pſal. 31.17

2. The ſecond ſort of Arguments, from our ſelves, are derivable from ſome of theſe heads.

1. From our *Relation* to him, as being his people, ſervants, children: *Pſal* 74. 1, 2. *Why doth thine anger ſmoke againſt the ſheep of thy paſture? Remember the Congregation which thou haſt purchaſed of old, the rod of thine inheritance, which thou haſt redeemed; this Mount Sion wherein thou haſt dwelt.* Pſal. 116. 16. *O Lord, truly I am thy ſervant, I am thy ſervant, and the Son of thy handmaid, thou haſt looſed my bands.* Pſal. 143. 12. *Of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and deſtroy all them that afflict my ſoul, for I am thy ſervant.* Iſa. 63. 16. *Doubtleſs thou art our Father, though* Abraham *be ignorant of us, and Iſrael acknowledg us not; thou O Lord, art our Father, our Redeemer.* Iſa. 64 8. *But now, O Lord, thou art our Father, we are the clay, and thou our Potter; we are all the work of thine hand. Be not wroth very ſore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever. Behold, ſee, we beſeech thee, we are all thy people.* Jer. 14. 8, 9. *O! the* Exo. 9. 29 Pſa. 86. 16

hope

hope of Iſrael, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble, why ſhouldſt thou be as a ſtranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man, that turneth aſide to tarry for a night? Why ſhouldſt thou be as a man aſtonied, as a mighty man that cannot ſave? yet thou, O Lord, art in the midſt of us, and we are called by thy Name; leave us not.

Pſal. 5. 12 2. From our own *Sincerity*, Pſal. 40. 16. *Let all*
25. 21. *thoſe that ſeek thee, rejoyce and be glad in thee; let*
86. 2. *ſuch as love thy ſalvation, ſay continually, The Lord be*
44. 18. *magnified.* Pſal. 119. 38. *Stabliſh thy Word unto thy ſervant, who is devoted to thy fear.* Verſ. 94. *I am thine, ſave me, for I have ſought thy precepts.* V. 159. *Conſider how I do love thy precepts; quicken me, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindneſs.* Iſa. 38. 3. *Remember now, O Lord, how I have walked before thee in truth, and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy ſight.*

2 Chron. 3. From our preſent *Dependance* upon him,
14. 11. Pſal. 7. 1. *O Lord my God, in thee do I put my truſt,*
Pſal. 31. 3. *ſave me from all them that perſecute me.* Pſal. 25. 2,
86. 2. *O my God, I truſt in thee, let me not be aſhamed.*
71. 5. Verſ. 20. *Keep my ſoul, and deliver me; let me not be aſhamed, for I put my truſt in thee.* Pſal. 57. 1. *Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me; for my ſoul truſteth in thee; yea, in the ſhadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until theſe calamities be over-paſt.*

4. From the greatneſs of our *Need* and ſuffer-
Ver. 17. 18 ings, *Pſal.* 25. 19. *Conſider mine enemies, for they*
Pſ. 62, 3. *are many, and they hate me with a cruel hatred.*
& 7. 6. Pſal. 60. 1, 2, 3. *O God, thou haſt caſt us off, thou haſt ſcattered us, thou haſt been diſpleaſed; O turn thy*

ſelf

ſelf to us again? Thou haſt made the earth to tremble, thou haſt broken it, thou haſt ſhewed thy people hard things, thou haſt made us to drink the wine of aſtoniſhment. Pſal. 79.8. *Let thy tender mercies ſpeedily prevent us, for we are brought very low.* Pſal. 142. 6. *Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my perſecutors, for they are ſtronger then I.*

Pſal. 80. 1, 2. Pſal. 86. 1, 14. 123. 2, 4. Iſa. 64. 10. 12.

5. From the *Benefit* of his hearing and granting our requeſts. *Pſal.* 80. 18. *So will not we go back from thee; quicken us, and we will call upon thy Name.* Pſal. 102. 15 *So the heathen ſhall fear the Name of the Lord, and all the Kings of the Earth thy Glory.* Verſ. 18. *This ſhall be written for the generations to come, and the people which ſhall be created, ſhall praiſe the Lord.* Pſal. 106. 47. *Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the Heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy Name, and to triumph in thy praiſe.*

Pſal. 9. 14 35. 18, 28. 43. 4. & 61. 8. 79. 13.

6. From our *Experience* and former Examples. Judg. 15. 18. *Thou haſt given this great deliverance into the hand of thy ſervant, and now ſhall I die for thirſt, and fall into the hand of the uncircumciſed?* Pſal. 22. 4, 5. *Our Fathers truſted in thee, and thou didſt deliver them. They cryed unto thee, and were delivered; they truſted in thee, and were not confounded.* Pſal. 27. 9. *Thou haſt been my help, leave me not, neither forſake me, O God of my ſalvation.*

Pſ. 71. 5, 6 Pſ. 80. 8, 9 143. 5. Iſa. 51. 9, 10.

To theſe may be added, in the buſineſs of *Imprecation*, another Topick, from the *inſolence* and impiety of Gods Enemies. *Exod.* 32. 12. *Wherefore ſhould the Egyptians ſay, for miſchief did he bring them out, to ſlay them in the mountains, and to conſume*

Deu. 9. 28 Pſ. 74. 10. 22, 23. Pſal. 83. 2. 139. 20.

ſume them from the face of the earth? Pſal. 140. 8.

Pſa. 10. 13 Deu. 9. 28 *Grant not, O Lord, the deſires of the wicked, further not his wicked devices, leaſt they exalt themſelves.*

From ſome of theſe heads a man may fetch Arguments to quicken and confirm his faith, to perſwade the poſſibility of obtaining help by this duty. And that is another good means of engaging the affections upon this ſervice.

Sometimes indeed, the Spirit of God may raiſe in a man ſuch vigorous enlargements of heart, that he ſhall not need any diſtinct application of his thoughts to theſe Rules; but at other times, when he is more heavy and indiſpoſed, then ought he to be the more careful in uſing theſe means; when the wind does not blow to help us by the *ſails*, we muſt ply the *oars* ſo much the harder.

But now, if notwithſtanding all our endeavours in this kind, we do ſtill find in our ſelves a barrenneſs, diſtraction and averſneſs from this ſervice, (as that maybe frequently our condition) in this caſe there are theſe two remedies to be conſidered.

1. Bewail, and pray againſt that indiſpoſition in particular; and though you can ſay nothing elſe, yet ſay this, O Lord, as this coldneſs and deadneſs of heart is my *fault*, ſo I deſire to repent of it, and to be humbled for it; but as it is thy *will* and *chaſtiſement*, moſt juſtly inflicted for my former negligence and formality, ſo I deſire to ſubmit unto it, thy will be done; but yet I will not ceaſe to beg pardon for it, and power againſt it.

A man does not only then pray well, when his devo-

devotions are accompanied with ſome ſpecial comforts and enlargements; but then alſo when he is ſenſible of much coldneſs and indiſpoſition. The right performance of this duty does not ſo much conſiſt in the acts of the ſenſitive appetite, as in the regulating of the Will. As God takes the will for the deed in ſinful actions, ſo much more in good duties, as being more ready to reward, then to puniſh.

2. What you want in the *degrees* of your duty, be careful to make up in your *humility*; and this will be the moſt proper improvement of all our failings, when we can *ſtrengthen* our ſelves by our very *infirmities*. *O Neminem à Deo derelictum, quando etiam vilitas ipſum ſeminarium eſt ſublimitatis*, (ſaith one of the Ancients.) That man has no great reaſon to complain of deſertions, who can by them take advantage to improve his graces, and raiſe himſelf by his very falls. Our moſt enlarged devotions are nothing worth without this fruit of humble and upright converſations; and with this conſequent, our coldeſt, moſt reſtrained prayers, may be looked upon as ſucceſsfull. *Weſſelus Groningenſis*, de orat. c. 3.

Thus much for the firſt ſort of rules thar concern the ſtirring up of our *Affections*.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Other Rules to furniſh the Judgment, *in reſpect of* Matter, Method, Expreſſion.

THE ſecond kind of *Rules* for the attaining of this Gift, are ſuch as concern the furniſhing the *Judgment* both in reſpect of

- Matter.
- Method.
- Expreſſion.

Anſwerable to theſe three defects that men uſually complain of, namely,

1. Drineſs or emptineſs for want of *Matter*.

2. Confuſed, tumultuary repetitions or digreſſions for want of *Order*.

3. Crude, unſeemly, improper phraſe, for want of fitting *Expreſſion*.

Whereas on the contrary, each of theſe may be remedied, if a man be furniſhed with

1. A treaſury of *Matter*. This will help us in the enlarging of our affections, preventing empty and needleſs repetitions, making the mouth to ſpeak from the abundance of the heart.

2. A fitting *Method* will teach us how to guide and regulate our thoughts, that they may be delivered in their true place and order, without unſeemly hudling, or impertinent digreſſions.

3. An expertneſs in proper *phraſe* and *expreſſion* will enable a man ſo to deliver his thoughts, as

as that they ſhall make reflection back upon his own heart, and have more powerful efficacy upon others.

Now for the fitting of the *judgment* in theſe reſpects, there are theſe directions to be obſerved.

1. For the ſupply of *matter*; a man ſhould be careful to keep by him ſome regiſter of the moſt remarkable paſſages of his life, both in reſpect of Gods dealing with him, and his carriage towards God; having ſeveral Catalogues, or Common-place-heads, unto which the emergencies of theſe divers natures may be diſtinctly reduced. This I conceive to be the meaning of thoſe places that ſpeak of *watching unto prayer and thankſgiving*; which do not only ſignifie a diligence in reſpect of the *act* or *exerciſe* of this duty, but likewiſe a care of improving in the habit or gift of it; A vigilancy in obſerving and gathering up fit matter for our Confeſſions, Petitions, Thankſgivings, according as our daily occaſions, and the ſeveral conditions of our lives may require: Mark your *ſins* and *defects*, your *ſufferings* and *wants*, your *mercies* and *enjoyments*; make a diſtinct regiſter of them, that you may have them in readineſs upon any ſpecial occaſion. Eph. 6. 18 Col. 4. 2. 1 Pet. 4. 7.

'Tis uſual for younger Students, to be very careful in gathering of Common-place books, for other matters, (of which notwithſtanding, when they come to riper judgments, they will find but very little uſe.) But now of how much greater advantage would it be, if they were but diligent to collect under proper references, any ſuch particular matter, or expreſſions in prayer, where-

with

with at any time they find themſelves to be more eſpecially affected?

It would very much conduce to the promoting of this gift, if men would firſt propoſe to themſelves ſome brief *Syſteme* or Logical frame (as ſuppoſe this that follows, or the like) containing diſtinctly the chief parts to be inſiſted upon in Prayer. And then uſe each of theſe, as a ſeveral head of reference by way of Common-place, to which they might reduce any more pertinent obſervable paſſage, which they ſhall either hear or read. This courſe induſtriouſly obſerved, might probably in a ſhort ſpace raiſe a man to a great ability in this kind, and would be a good means to preſerve the memory of ſuch paſſages, as we have at any time experimented to be more eſpecially quickning, and efficacious upon our own hearts, which otherwiſe we are ſo eaſily apt to forget.

If any ſhall object, that this courſe will require much ſtudy and care; 'Tis conſiderable, that no eminent gift in any kind is attained without proportionable diligence. He that would be expert in any other common ability, whether pleading, diſputing, *&c.* muſt apply himſelf to thoſe Arts and Exerciſes whereby they are to be learnt; and therefore much leſs ſhould a man grudg his pains in ſuch a weighty buſineſs, of more then ordinary conſequence.

Men that would be thought *wary* and thriving in the world, are thus obſervant of their temporal Eſtates, keeping Books of Accompt for their *Revenues and Expences.* And why ſhould not thoſe

thoſe who would be thought truly *religious*, be watchful and obſervant of their ſpiritual conditions?

2. For *Method*; though there may be ſeveral kinds of it, yet that is to be eſteemed the beſt, wherein theſe Rules are moſt cloſely obſerved: Namely, 1. That it be comprehenſive, and take in all the parts. 2. That *Generals* be mentioned firſt, and *Particulars* after. 3. That things of the ſame kind and nature be put together; and this ſhould be obſerved in all the parts of Prayer.

Now the parts of Prayer may be generally diſtinguiſhed into theſe two kinds.

1. Leſs Principal, { Preface. Tranſitions. Concluſion.
2. More Principal, { Confeſſion. Petition. Thankſgiving.

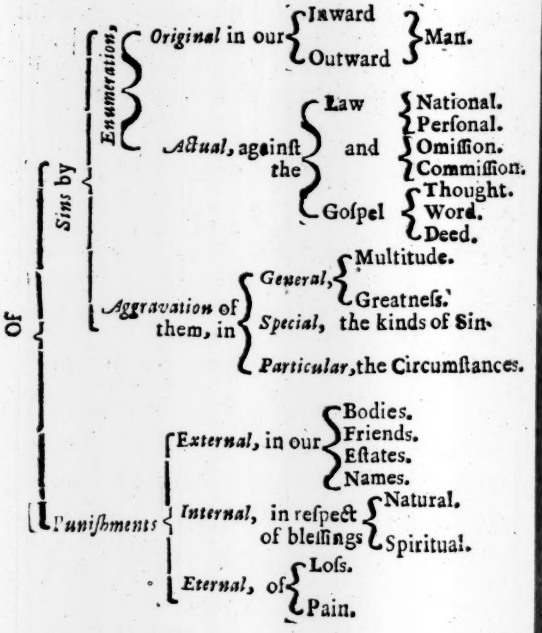
The firſt thing in a form of Prayer, is the *Preface*, which does chiefly conſiſt of theſe particulars: 1. The titles of invocation. 2. Some general acknowledgment of our own unworthineſs.

3. An expreſſion of our purpoſe and deſire to make our addreſſes to God in this duty. 4. With the impetration of his aſſiſtance and attention.

Next unto the Preface, any one of the three Principal parts of Prayer may ſucceed, either Confeſſion, Petition or Thankſgiving, according as ſeveral occaſions ſhall require. But in general and common uſe, 'tis moſt convenient that *Con-*

feſſion ſhould precede the other, becauſe it prepares for them, and may ſerve to ſtir us up unto a true ſenſe, both of thoſe *mercies* which we *want*, and thoſe which we have *received*.

Confeſſion, according to its proper latitude and extent, doth imply in it an acknowledgment both



Next

Next to *Confeſſion*, *Petition* may ſucceed; but for the better connexion of theſe two, 'tis requiſite that they be joyned together by ſome fitting *Tranſition*. The moſt natural and genuine matter for which, may refer to ſome one of theſe heads: Either, 1. A *Profeſſion* of our ſhame and ſorrow, in the conſideration of our many ſins, and the puniſhment due unto them. 2. An *Expreſſion* of our deſire to renounce our own righteouſneſs, to fly utterly out of our ſelves. 3. A *Promiſe* of greater care and ſtrictneſs in our ways for the future. 4. A brief *Application* unto our ſelves, of ſuch mercies and promiſes as do belong unto thoſe that believe and repent.

For the chief heads of *Petition*, we are directed in the *Lords Prayer*, that being given us as a Summary, or brief Model, wherein are contain'd the moſt principal and neceſſary materials of all our deſires.

That which is accounted the firſt Petition, *Hallowed be thy Name*, doth more eſpecially concern the chief end of all our deſires, namely, the glory of God, and is there ſet down to teach us what we are principally to intend and aim at in all thoſe prayers that we make, either for our ſelves or others.

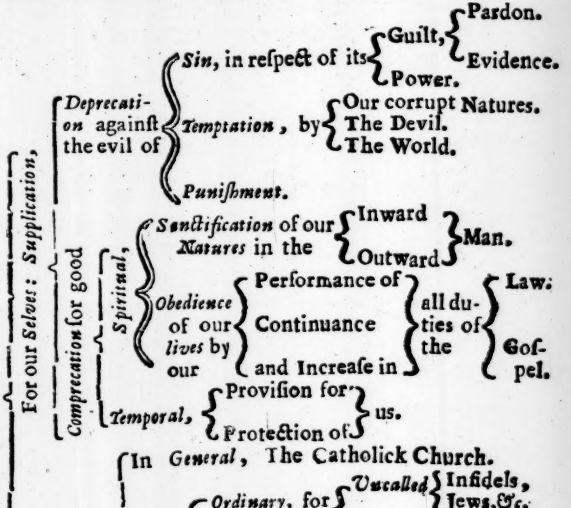
The three next clauſes do concern the *obtaining* of *good*. The firſt of them for the *ſanctifying* of our hearts and natures, into which we wiſh that his *Kingdom may come*. The ſecond for the *obedience* of our lives, *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. The third for the *neceſſities* of this preſent life, *Give us this day our daily bread*.

The three laſt Petitions do concern the *removal* of *evil*. The firſt of them being againſt the evil of *Sin*; *Forgive us our treſpaſſes*. The ſecond againſt the evil of *Temptation*; *Lead us not into temptation*. The laſt againſt the evil of *Puniſhment*; *Deliver us from evil*.

All of them being in the plural number, *Our Father*, and *Give us*, and *Forgive us*, *&c.* which ſhews our duty to petition for others, as well as our ſelves; and then the whole Prayer is ſealed up with this Argument, *For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever, Amen.* Wherein we acknowledg, that it is he alone who is able to grant our requeſts; thereby teaching us to back our Petitions with ſuch arguments as may ſerve to ſtrengthen our belief concerning the ſucceſs of them.

So that, according to this pattern, the chief materials of our deſires (the order only being made more ſuitable to the precedent method obſerved in our *Confeſſion*) may be thus analyſed.

All


All Petition is either
For our Selves: Supplication,
Deprecation against the evil of
Sin, in respect of its
Guilt,
Pardon.
Evidence.
Power.
Temptation, by
Our corrupt Natures.
The Devil.
The World.
Punishment.
Comprecation for good
Spiritual,
Sanctification of our Natures in the
Inward
Outward
Man.
Obedience of our lives by our
Performance of
Continuance
and Increase in
all duties of the
Law.
Gospel.
Temporal,
Provision for
Protection of
us.
For Others: Intercession.
In General, The Catholick Church.
In Special,
Ordinary, for the Nations
Uncalled
Infidels, Jews, &c.
Called,
Allyes,
Ourown Nation.
Occasional, in times of
War,
Famine,
Pestilence,
In particular
Ordinary for all relations of
Order
Publick & Political
Private, or Oeconomical.
Friendship and Enmity.
Neighbourhood.
Occasional, for the afflicted in
Mind
Body

This part should be connected to the next, by some such *Transition* as may fitly serve to seal up the one, and begin the other; which may be taken either, 1. From our confidence of obtaining the things we desire, by our experience of those former mercies we have already enjoyed. 2. From the danger of ingratitude, in hindring the success of our Petitions.

The chief materials to be insisted upon in our *Thanksgiving*, are reducible under these two general Heads; either { Enumeration / or / Amplification } of Mercies.

The

The *Concluſion* ſhould conſiſt of ſome ſuch *Doxologies* as may help to ſtrengthen our Faith, and leave ſome impreſſion upon our affections.

This may ſerve for a Scheme of *Method*, comprehending all the *chief parts*, according to a fitting order, for the regulating of our thoughts in this duty.

If there be any that ſhould deny the uſe of *Method*, and the like helps, as being humane inventions, ſuch perſons will not deſerve an anſwer; they may as well account the rules of reaſoning and diſpute to be unlawful, reducing all to their own Enthuſiaſms; and ſo are not capable of being dealt with in any way of debate.

3. The third thing to be inquired into, is *Expreſſion*; which will of it ſelf naturally follow upon ſuch a preparation of *Matter* and *Method*. But becauſe the language of *Canaan*, the ſtile of the Holy Ghoſt is undoubtedly the fitteſt for holy and ſpiritual ſervices; with which, for divers reaſons, we ſhould labour to be familiarly acquainted; therefore we ſhould rather chuſe (where we may) to ſpeak in Scripture-expreſſion. To which purpoſe, there are divers inſtances for each of the foregoing heads, that may be obſerved and collected from ſeveral Books in Scripture. All *prohibitions* and *threats* will adminiſter both matter and phraſe unto *Confeſſion* and *Deprecation*. All *precepts* and *promiſes*, unto *Comprecation* and *Thankſgiving*. Beſides that, it is eaſie to reduce the uſual expreſſions of other kinds, to be proper and helpful unto this purpoſe.

There are two extreams to be avoided in our *Expression*, Namely, { Negligence. / Affectation.

1. *Negligence*, when men vent their thoughts in a rude, improper, unseemly phrase; as if they had no awe upon their spirits, and did not care how they spake.

2. *Affectation*, either of too much neatness and elegance, or else of a mystical kind of phrase, not to be found either in Scripture, or any sober Writer, (though much in fashion amongst some men in these times) which, it may be, sounds well to vulgar ears; but being reduced into plain English, will appear to be wholly *empty*, and to signifie nothing, or else to be *full* of vain repetitions.

Each of these extreams will be ready to nauseate an intelligent hearer, and is very unsuitable to the solemnity of this duty.

There are some Rhetorical Ornaments and varieties in the manner of expression, which may be very proper, and powerful, both for the expressing and exciting our affections, such as are these four.

1. *Exclamations*; which serve to set forth an affectionate wonder, Psal. 31. 19. *O how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men?* Rom. 7. 24. *O wretched man, that I am! who shall*, &c.

2. *Expostulations*; which are fit to express any deep dejections of mind. So *Psal.* 77. 8. *Will*

Will the Lord cast us off for ever? and will he be no more intreated? Is his mercy clean gone? &c. Psal. 80.4. *O Lord God of Hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against thy people that prayeth?* &c. Psal. 44. 24. *Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction, and our oppression.* Psal. 13. 1. Isa. 63. 15.

3. *Option*; Fit to set forth serious and earnest desires, *Job* 6 8. *O that I might have my request, and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! that it would please him, &c.* Psalm. 119. 5. *O that my ways were so directed, that I might keep thy statutes.*

4. *Ingemination*; which argues eager and inflamed affections, Psal. 94. 1, 2. *O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth, O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thy self; lift up thy self, thou Judg of the earth, &c.* Dan. 9. 19. *O Lord hear; O Lord forgive; O Lord hearken and do; defer not for thine own sake, O my God.*

He that will seriously endeavour and accustom himself to deliver his thoughts in a proper, full, significant expression, and to be well acquainted with those many examples which the Scripture doth afford to this purpose, such a one may by practice and experience arrive to a good ability and readiness in this kind.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Concerning the moſt proper Materials for the Preface.

HAving in the former Chapter laid down ſome directions in reference to the *Order* and *diſpoſition of parts* to be obſerved in this duty. I come in the next place to treat concerning the *amplification* of theſe ſeveral parts; and to ſhew how the Scripture will afford various matter for the enlargement of each of them. So that any one, who will be but careful to collect any other appoſite matter, or obſervation that he ſhall meet with, and amongſt theſe to refer it under its proper head, ſuch a one may quickly be furniſhed with a very copious Treaſury to this purpoſe.

The firſt thing to be thought of in compoſing a form of Prayer, is the *Preface*. The moſt neceſſary and chief materials for a *Preface*, were formerly ſpecified to be four.

I. I. The Titles of Invocation, or the ſtile of Salutation, wherein we beſpeak the perſon whom we pray unto; who ſhould be expreſſed by ſuch divine compellations, as may excite in our hearts either ſome or all of thoſe affections that are more eſpecially required in this duty.

Theſe Compellations may conſiſt either of, 1. Gods Names or Titles. 2. His Attributes or Properties. 3. His Promiſes or Threats. 4. His Works

Works or Ways; By all of which he hath been pleaſed after a more ſpecial manner to declare and make himſelf known.

In the choice of theſe, we ſhould ſelect ſuch as may be moſt ſuitable unto that frame and temper of mind required in that kind or part of Prayer which we have occaſion to inſiſt more largely upon. *As the matter of fire is, ſo it burneth,* (ſaith the ſon of *Siracb*) ſo from the divers meditations of God, will ariſe divers affections towards him. Eccl. 28. 10.

1. The conſideration of his Infinite Power, Wiſdom, Holineſs, Juſtice, Omnipreſence, Majeſty, &c. is apt to produce in us reverence, ſhame, fear, ſorrow, and the other affections of this nature, which are moſt ſuitable to the buſi- of *Confeſſion.*

2. The thought of his Mercy, Truth, Patience, is fit to excite Faith and Hope, and conſequently is proper for the duty of *Petition.*

3. The meditation of his bounty and goodneſs, will provoke Love and Gratitude, and is therefore fit to prepare us for *Thankſgiving.*

According as our thoughts are ſeverally fixed upon any of theſe, ſo may our affections be diſpoſed and qualified in our prayers unto him. To this purpoſe 'tis convenient that we take ſpecial notice of thoſe Divine Titles and Attributes in Scripture, which may be moſt ſuitable to ſuch various occaſions.

1. Of the firſt kind are ſuch as theſe. Pſal. 24. 7, 10.

The King of Glory.

The Lord, the Lord of Hoſts, the mighty One of Iſrael. Iſa. 1. 24.

The

Rev.19.16 *The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.*

Ex.15.11. *Who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders.*

Numb.16 *The God of the spirits of all flesh.*

22. *Who is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

Deu.4.24 *The God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God,*
Deu.10.17 *mighty and terrible, which regardeth not persons, neither taketh rewards.*

Deu.32.4 *Whose works are perfect, and his ways judgment; a God of truth, and without iniquity, just and right.*

1Sam.4.4 *The Lord of Hosts, who dwelleth between the*
1Kin.8.27 *Cherubims; whom the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain.*

1 Kin. 19. *O Lord God of Israel, which dwelleth between the*
15. *Cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the Kingdoms of the Earth; thou hast made Heaven and Earth.*

2Chr.20. *Who ruleth over all the Kingdoms of the Earth; in*
6. *whose hands there is power and might, so that none is able to withstand him.*

2Chr.23. *Before whom no unclean thing should enter.*

19. *Who searchest all hearts, and understandest all the*
1Chr.28. *imaginations of the thoughts.*

9. *The Lord God of Israel, to whom belongeth great-*
1Chr.29. *ness, and power, and glory, and victory, and Majesty; for*
11. *all that is in the Heaven, and in the earth, is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

Verse 12. *Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power, and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and give strength unto all.*

2 Chr.16. *Glory and honour are in his presence, strength and*
27. *gladness are in his place.* *Whose*

Whose glorious Name is exalted above all blessing and praise. Neh. 9. 5.

Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made Heaven, the Heaven of heavens with all their hosts; the earth, and all things that are therein; the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all, and the Host of Heaven worshippeth thee. Verse 6.

The great, and mighty, and terrible God, who keepeth Covenant and Mercy. Verse 32.

Who chargeth his Angels with folly. Job 4. 18.

Who doth great things, and unsearchable, marvellous things without number. Job 5. 9.

Who giveth rain upon the Earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields. Vers. 10.

To set up on high those that be low, that those which mourn, may be exalted to safety. 11,

Who disappointeth the devices of the crafty; so that their hands cannot perform their enterprize. 12,

Who taketh the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. 13,

So that they meet with darkness in the day-time, and grope in the noon-day, as in the night. 14,

But He saveth the poor from the sword, and from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. 15,

He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength, who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? Job 9. 4.

Which removeth the mountains, and they know not; which overturneth them in his anger. Verse 5,

Which shaketh the Earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. 6,

Which commandeth the Sun, and it riseth not, and sealeth up the stars. 7.

Which

Verse 8. *Which alone spreadeth out the Heavens, and treads upon the waves of the Sea, &c.*

Job 15.15 *Who putteth no trust in his Saints, yea, the Heavens are not clean in his sight.*

Job 26.6. *Before whom Hell is naked, and destruction hath no covering.*

Verse 7. *Who stretcheth out the North over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.*

8. *Who bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not rent under them.*

9. *Who holdeth back the face of his Throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it.*

10. *Who hath compassed the waters with bounds, until day and night come to an end.*

11. *The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at his reproof.*

12. *Who divideth the sea by his power; and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.*

13. *Who by his Spirit hath garnished the heavens, and his hand hath formed the crooked Serpent.*

Job 37.16 *Who is perfect in Knowledg.*

Verse 22. *With whom is terrible Majesty.*

23. *We cannot find him out; he is excellent in Power and in Judgment, and in plenty of Justice: He respecteth not them that are wise of heart.*

Psal. 8.1. *Whose Name is excellent in all the earth; who hath set his glory above the heavens.*

Psal. 33.6 *By whose word the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*

Verse 7. *Who gathereth the waters of the Sea together as an heap, and layeth up the deeps in store-houses.*

8. *That all the earth might fear him, and all the inhabitants of the world might stand in awe of him.*

Who

Who bringeth the counsel of the people to nought, and makes the devices of the people to be of none effect. 10,

Whose own counsel standeth for ever, and the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 11,

Who looks down from Heaven, and beholds all the sons of men. 13,

From the place of his habitation he looks upon all the inhabitants of the earth. 14,

Fashioning their hearts alike, and considering all their works. 15,

Who is the Lord most high and terrible, a great King over all the earth. Psal. 47. 2

Who is exalted above the Heavens, and his glory above all the earth. Psa. 57. 5.

Who by his strength setteth fast the mountains, being girded with power. Psa. 65. 6.

Who stilleth the noise of the Seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. Verse 7.

Who is terrible in his doings toward the children of men. Psal. 66. 5

Who ruleth by his power for ever, and his eyes behold the Nations. Verse 7.

Who rideth upon the Heaven of heavens, which were of old. Ps. 68. 33.

Who shall judg the people with righteousness, and the poor with judgment. Psal. 72. 2

All Kings shall bow down before him, and all Nations shall do him service. Verse 11.

Whose Name shall endure for ever, and be continued as long as the Sun; and men shall be blessed in him, and all Nations shall call him blessed. 17.

Who only doth wondrous things. 18.

Whose Name alone is Jehovah, *who is the most high over all the earth,* Psa. 83. 18.

Who

Psal.89.6 *Who in the Heaven can be compared unto the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord?*

Verse 7. *Who is greatly to be feared in the Assembly of his Saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*

8, *O Lord God of Hosts, who is a strong God like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness, round about thee?*

9, *Thou rulest the raging of the Sea, when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.*

10, *Thou scatterest thine enemies with thy strong arm.*

11, *The Heavens are thine, the Earth also is thine: as for the world, and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.*

13, *Thou hast a mighty arm, strong is thine hand, and high is thy right hand.*

14, *Justice and Judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth shall go before thy face.*

Psal.95.3 *Who is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

Verse 4. *In whose hands are the deep places of the Earth; the strength of the Hills is his also*

5. *The Sea is his, and he made it; his hands formed the dry land.*

Psa.96.6. *Before whom are Honour and Majesty; and in whose Sanctuary are strength and beauty.*

Psa.99.2. *Who is great in Zion, and high above all people.*

Verse 3, *Whose Name is great and terrible, for it is holy.*

4. *Who loveth Judgment, and doth establish Equity; executing Judgment and righteousness in Jacob.*

Ps.103.19 *Who hath prepared his throne in the Heavens, and his Kingdom ruleth over all.*

O

O Lord my God, thou art very great, thou art clothed with Honour and Majesty. Psa. 104.

Who coverest thy self with light as with a garment. Verse 2.

Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters, and maketh the clouds his chariots, and walketh upon the wings of the wind. 3.

Who maketh his Angels spirits, his Ministers a flaming fire. 4.

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. 5.

Who hath set a bound to the waters of the Sea, that they might not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. 9.

Who sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. 10.

To give drink unto every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. 11.

Who watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of his works. 13.

Who causeth grass to grow for the cattel, and herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth food out of the earth. 14.

By whose appointment the Moon hath her seasons, and the Sun knoweth his going down. 19.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works? in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. 24.

Holy and reverend is his Name. Ps. 111. 9.

Who is high above all Nations; and his glory is above the Heavens. Ps. 113. 4.

Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in Heaven. Verse 6.

Ps. 139. 2. *Who knows our down-sitting, and our uprising, and understandeth our thoughts afar off.*

Verse 3. *Who compasseth our path, and our lying-down, and is acquainted with all our ways.*

Psal. 145. 23. *Whose Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and his dominion endureth throughout all generations.*

Verse 17. *Who is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

Ps. 146. 6. Act. 4. 24 *Who made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that therein is, who keepeth truth for ever.*

Verse 7. *Who executeth judgment for the oppressed, and giveth food for the hungry.*

Prov. 21. 30, 31. *Against whom there is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel; from whom alone safety must come.*

Eccl. 12. 14. *Who will bring every work unto judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil.*

Isa. 2. 17. *Before whom the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low.*

Verse 19. *And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his Majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

Isa. 6. 2. *Before whom the Seraphims do cover their faces.*

Isa 28. 29. *Who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.*

Isa. 40. 12 *Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out the heavens with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.*

Isa. 40. 15 *Before whom the Nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance;*

lance; who taketh up the Isles as a very little thing.

All Nations before him are as nothing, and they are counted to him less than nothing and vanity. Verse 17.

Who sitteth upon the Circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as Grashoppers. That stretcheth out the heavens as a Curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in. 22.

Who bringeth Princes to nothing, and maketh the Judges of the earth as vanity. 23.

Who can make the worm Jacob *to thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and make the hills as chaff.* Isa. 41. 14, 15.

Who created the heavens, and stretched them out; who spreadeth forth the earth, and that which cometh of it; who giveth breath to the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein. Isa. 42. 5.

Who formed us from the womb, who maketh all things, who stretcheth forth the heavens alone, and spreadeth abroad the earth by himself. Isa. 44. 24

That frustrateth the tokens of lyers, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backwards, and maketh their knowledg foolish. Verse 25,

That confirmeth the word of his servants, and performeth the counsel of his messengers. 26,

Who can declare the end from the beginning; and from ancient times the things that are not yet done: whose counsel shall stand, and he will do all his pleasure. Isa. 46. 10

Who is the first and the last; whose hand hath laid the foundations of the earth, and his right hand hath spanned the Heavens. Isa. 48. 12,

At whose rebuke the sea is dried up, and the Isa. 50 2.

rivers become a wilderness, their fish stinketh because there is no water, and die for thirst.

Verse 3. *Who cloatheth the heavens with blackness, and maketh sackcloth their covering.*

Isa. 57. 15. *Who is the high and lofty One, inhabiting eternity, whose Name is holy, who dwelleth in the high and holy place.*

Isa. 66. 1. *Who hath the heavens for his Throne, and the earth for his foot-stool.*

Jer. 10. 10 *The only true and living God, the everlasting King, at whose wrath the earth doth tremble, and the Nations are not able to abide his indignation.*

Verse 26. *Who made the earth by his power, and hath established the world by his wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by his discretion.*

Jer. 11. 20 *The Lord of Hosts that judgeth righteously, that trieth the reins and the heart.*

Jer. 17. 10. *Who giveth to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Jer. 23. 24 *From whom no man can hide himself, that he shall not see him: who fills heaven and earth.*

Jer. 31. 35. *Who giveth the Sun for a light by day, and the Ordinances of the Moon and of the Stars for a light by night; who divideth the Sea when the waves thereof roar: the Lord of Hosts is his Name.*

Jer. 32. 17. *Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power, and stretched-out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.*

Verse 18. *Thou shewest loving-kindness unto thousands, and recompencest the iniquities of the fathers into the bosome of their children after them; The great, the mighty God, the Lord of Hosts is his Name.*

Verse 19. *Great in counsel, and mighty in work, for thine eyes*

eyes are open upon all the ways of the ſons of men, to give to every man according to his works, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Who made the earth by his power, and eſtabliſhed the world by his wiſdom, and hath ſtretched out the heavens by his underſtanding. Jer. 51. 15

In whoſe hands our breath is, and whoſe are all our ways. Dan. 5. 23

Whom there are thouſand thouſands that miniſter unto, and ten thouſand times ten thouſands ſtand before him. Dan. 7. 10

The Lord God of Hoſts, who formed the mountains, and created the wind, and declared unto man what is his thought; that maketh the morning darkneſs, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth. Am. 4. 13.

When he toucheth the land, it ſhall melt, and all that dwell therein ſhall mourn. Am. 9. 5.

Who buildeth his ſtore houſe in the heavens, and hath founded his troup in the earth; that calleth for the waters of the ſea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth. Verſe 6.

Who is of purer eyes then to behold evil, and cannot look upon iniquity. Hab. 1. 13

Who quickneth the dead, and calleth thoſe things that be not, as though they were. Rom. 4. 17

Whoſe judgments are unſearchable, and his ways paſt finding out. Rom. 11. 33.

Who is over all, God bleſſed for ever. Rom. 9. 5.

Who will bring to light the hidden things of darkneſs, and will make manifeſt the counſels of the heart. 1 Cor. 4. 5

Who doth every thing according to the counſel of his own will. Eph. 1. 11

Eph. 3. 20. *Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.*

Col. 1. 16. *By whom all things were created, that are in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, whether they be Thrones, or Dominions, or Principalities, or Powers.*

2 Tim. 1. 17. *Who is the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God.*

Ch. 6. 15. *The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.*

Verse 16. *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, or can see.*

[redacted] *In whose sight there is no creature that is not manifest, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

Heb. 13. 8 *Who is yesterday, to day, and the same for ever.*

Rev. 6. 15 *At whose dreadful appearance the Kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief Captains, and the mighty men shall be willing to hide themselves in the Dens, and in the Rocks of the Mountains.*

Verse 16. *Crying to the Mountains and Rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits upon the Throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*

II. Invocations of the second sort, are such Scripture expressions as these.

Ex. 34. 6. *The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.*

Verse 7. *Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression and sin.*

Neh. 9. 17 *Who is a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful,*

ciful, ſlow to anger, and of great kindneſs.

Who is a refuge for the oppreſſed, a refuge in time Pſal. 9. 9.
of trouble.

Who will never forſake them that ſeek him. Verſe 10.

Whoſe word is right, and all his works are done in Pſal. 33. 4
truth.

Whoſe eye is upon them that fear him, and upon Verſe 18,
them that hope in his mercy.

To deliver their ſouls from death, and to keep them Verſe 19.
alive in famine.

Who will not ſuffer them to want, that fear and Pſal. 34.
truſt in him. 8, 9.

Whoſe eyes are upon the righteous, and his ears are Verſe 15.
open to their cry.

To hear and deliver them out of all their troubles. Verſe 17.

Who is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, Verſe 18.
and ſaveth ſuch as be of a contrite ſpirit.

Who will redeem the ſoul of his ſervants, and none Verſe 22.
of them that truſt in him, ſhall be deſolate.

Whoſe mercy is in the heavens, and his faithful- Pſa. 36. 5.
neſs reacheth unto the clouds.

Whoſe righteouſneſs is like the great mountains, Verſe 6.
and whoſe judgments are a great deep, who preſerveth man and beaſt.

Our refuge and ſtrength; a very preſent help in Pſa. 46. 1.
trouble.

The God that heareth prayers, unto whom all Pſal. 65. 2
fleſh ſhould come.

The confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of Verſe 5.
them that are afar off upon the ſea.

Who delivereth the needy when he cryeth, the poor Pſ. 72. 12.
alſo, and him that hath no helper.

Who ſhall redeem their ſoul from deceit and Verſe 14.

violence, and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

Ps. 103. 8. *Who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

Verse 9. *Who will not always chide, neither will he keep his anger for ever.*

10. *Who does not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities.*

13. *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.*

14. *He knows our frame; he remembers that we are but dust.*

17. *Whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto childrens children.*

18. *To such as keep his Covenant, and to those that remember his Commandments to do them.*

Ps. 145. 8. *Who is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy.*

Verse 9. *Who is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works.*

18. *Who is nigh unto them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.*

19. *He will fulfill the desires of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will help them.*

Isa. 51. 6. *Though the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a Garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner; yet his salvation shall be for ever, and his righteousness shall not be abolished.*

Isa. 65. 2. *Who hath great regard to them that are poor, and of a contrite spirit, and tremble at his Word.*

Jer. 14. 8. *Who is the hope of* Israel, *and the Saviour thereof in time of trouble.*

Who

Who hath no pleaſure in the death of the wicked, but rather that he ſhould turn from his way and live. Ezek. 33. 11.

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and paſſeth by the tranſgreſſion of the remnant of his heritage, who retaineth not his anger for ever, becauſe he delighteth in mercy? Mic. 7. 18.

Who will turn again, and have compaſſion upon us, ſubduing our iniquities, and caſting all our ſins into the depth of the ſea. Verſe 19.

Who hath promiſed, where two or three are gathered together in his Name, to be in the midſt of them. Mat. 18. 20.

Who does abound in riches, and goodneſs, and forbearance, and long-ſuffering, which ſhould lead us to repentance. Rom. 2. 4.

Who is rich unto all that call upon him. Ro. 10. 12

Who is the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. 2 Cor. 1. 3

The God of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Father of glory. Eph. 1. 17.

The Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift doth come, with whom there is no variableneſs, neither ſhadow of turning. Jam. 1. 17.

Who is not willing that any ſhould periſh, but that all ſhould come to repentance. 2 Pet. 3. 9.

III. Divine Compellations of the third ſort may be derived from ſuch Scriptures as theſe.

Who keepeth Covenant and mercy for them that love him, and obſerve his Commandments. Neh. 1. 5.

Who will deliver us in ſix troubles, yea in ſeven there ſhall no evil touch us. Job 5. 19.

Who in famine ſhall redeem us from death, and in war from the power of the ſword. Verſe 20.

Job 7.20. *O thou preserver of men.*
Psal. 8.1. *O Lord our God, how excellent is thy Name in all the world.*
Psal. 18.2 *My rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust, my buckler, the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*
Verse 3. *Who is worthy to be praised.*
Ps. 19.14. *My strength and my redeemer.*
Psa. 22.9. 10. *Who tookest me out of the womb, and hast been my hope, and my God, since I was upon my mothers breast.*
Psal. 27.9 *The God of my salvation.*
Psal. 33.5 *Who loveth righteousness and judgment, and the earth is full of his goodness.*
Verse 12. *Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*
Verse 20. *Our help and our shield.*
Ps. 35. 27. *Who hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servants.*
Psa. 36.7. *How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God? therefore shall the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*
Verse 8. *They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*
Verse 9. *For with thee is the fountain of life; and in thy light shall we see light.*
Psal. 46.1 *Our refuge and our strength; a very present help in trouble.*
Psal. 63.3 *Who se loving-kindness is better then life.*
Psal. 65.8. *Who maketh the out-goings of the morning and evening to rejoyce.*
Verse 9. *Who visiteth the earth, and watereth it, and greatly*

greatly enricheth it with the river of God.

Who maketh it ſoft with ſhowers, and bleſſeth the ſpringing thereof. Verſe 10.

Who crowneth the year with his goodneſs, and his paths drop fatneſs. Verſe 11.

Who clotheth his paſtures with flocks; and covers the valleys with corn. Verſe 13.

Who holdeth our ſoul in life; and ſuffereth not our feet to be moved. Pſa. 66. 9

Who ſhall judg the poor of the people, and ſave the children of the needy, and ſhall break in pieces the oppreſſor. Pſal. 72. 4

He ſhall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor alſo, and him that hath no helper. Verſe 12.

He ſhall ſpare the poor and needy, and ſhall ſave the ſouls of the needy. Verſe 13.

He ſhall redeem their ſoul from deceit and violence; and precious ſhall their blood be in his ſight. Verſe 14.

Whom have I in Heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I deſire beſides thee. Pſ. 73. 25.

My fleſh and my heart faileth; but God is the ſtrength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Verſe 26.

The Shepherd of Iſrael. Pſa. 80. 1.

Who art the glory of our defence; and in whoſe favour our horn ſhall be exalted. Pſ. 89. 17.

For the Lord is our defence, and the holy One of Iſrael *is our King.* Verſe 18.

He is my refuge and my fortreſs, my God, in him will I truſt. Pſal. 91. 2

He ſhall cover me with his feathers, under his wings will I truſt; his truth ſhall be my ſhield and buckler. Verſe 4.

Who forgives all our iniquities, and heals all our diſeaſes. Pſ. 103. 3.

Who

Verse 4. *Who redeems our life from destruction, who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.*

Verse 6. *Who executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*

Ps.119.68 *Thou art good, and thou dost good.*

Ps.145.3. *Who is greatly to be praised, and whose greatness is unsearchable.*

Verse 20. *Who preserveth all them that love him.*

Isa.40.11. *Who shall feed his flock like a Shepherd, and shall gather his Lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosome, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*

Isa. 51.3. *Who will comfort* Sion, *and build her waste places, making her Wilderness like* Eden, *and her Desart like the garden of the Lord, so that joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.*

Verse 5. *Whose righteousness is near, and his salvation gone forth; whose arms shall judg the people: the Isles shall wait upon him, and in his arm shall they trust.*

Verse 22. *That pleadeth the cause of his people.*

Jer.14.8. *The hope of* Israel, *the Saviour thereof in the time of trouble.*

Jer.16.19 *O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction; to whom the Gentiles shall come from the ends of the earth; and shall say, Surely our Fathers have inherited lyes, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.*

Besides whom there is no Saviour.

Hos.13 4.

Acts 14. 17. *Who leaveth not himself without a witness unto all the Nations of the world, doing them good, giving them rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling their hearts*

hearts with food and gladneſs.

In whom we live, move, and have our being. Act. 17. 28.

Who hath bleſſed us with all ſpiritual bleſſings in heavenly places in Chriſt. Eph. 1. 3.

Who is rich in mercy. Eph. 2. 4.

The Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, of whom the whole Family in Heaven and Earth is named. Eph. 3. 14

Our Father who hath loved us, and hath given us everlaſting conſolation, and good hope through grace 2 Theſ. 2. 16.

Who is the Saviour of thoſe that believe. 1 Tim. 4. 10.

The living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. 1 Tim. 6. 17

The God of Peace, who brought again from the dead the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, that great ſhepherd of his ſheep, through the blood of the everlaſting Covenant. Heb. 13. 20.

The God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory by Chriſt Jeſus. 1 Pet. 5. 10.

The King of Saints, whoſe works are great and marvellous, and his ways juſt and true. Rev. 15. 3

There may be divers the like expreſſions of each kind collected from ſeveral places of Scripture: Of ſome or more of theſe, the firſt and chief material of a Preface ſhould conſiſt.

Theſe ſeveral kinds may be variouſly intermixed, according as divers occaſions ſhall require: The Scriptures do afford ſundry examples to this purpoſe.

O Lord God of Heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth Covenant and mercy for them that love him, and obſerve his Commandments. Neh. 1. 5. Dan. 9. 4.

The

Pſa. 46. 7. *The Lord of Hoſts, the God of* Jacob *our refuge.*
Iſa. 43. 3. *The Lord our God; the holy One of* Iſrael *our Saviour.*
Verſe 14. *The Lord our Redeemer, the holy One of* Iſrael;
Iſa. 45. 21. *who is a juſt God and a Saviour, and there is none beſides him.*
Iſa. 49. 26 *The Lord who is our Saviour and Redeemer, the mighty One of* Jacob.
Iſa. 54. 5. *Our Maker, and our Husband, whoſe Name is the Lord of Hoſts, our Redeemer, the holy One of* Iſrael, *the God of the whole Earth.*
Mat. 6. 9. *Our Father which art in Heaven.*

I have been the larger in the recital of ſuch paſſages, becauſe they will not onely afford us matter for a *Preface*, but ſupply us likewiſe with divers proper *Arguments*, upon ſeveral occaſions, for the exciting of our faith, and fervency in the buſineſs of petition.

II. The ſecond Material in a *Preface*, to be joyned with the former, is ſome general acknowledgment of our own unworthineſs, as, that *we who*

Gen. 18. *are but duſt and aſhes.*
27. *Leſs then the leaſt of all his mercies.*
Gen. 32. 10. *As leaves driven to and fro, and as dry ſtubble.*
Job 13. 25 *Altogether abominable and filthy.*
Pſal. 14. 3 *Worms, and no men.*
Pſal. 22. 6 *The people of his paſture, and ſheep of his hands.*
Pſal. 95. 7 *Whoſe days are as graſs, as the flower of the field,*
Pſ. 103. 15 *ſo he flouriſheth.*
Verſe 16. *When the wind paſſeth over it, it is gone, and the place thereof ſhall know it no more.*
Pſ. 144. 3. *Lord, what is man that thou takeſt knowledg of him? or the ſon of man, that thou makeſt account of him?*

Man

Man is like to vanity, his days are as a shadow that passeth away. Verse 4.

Whose breath is in his nostrils; and wherein is he to be accounted of? Isa. 2. 22.

All Nations before him are as nothing, and counted to him less then nothing. Isa. 40. 17

Prodigal children, unprofitable servants, of polluted lips, and uncircumcised hearts, &c. 1 Tim. 1. 15.

The chief of sinners.

III. An expression of our purpose to approach unto him in this duty. That we do desire III.

To worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psal. 95. 6

To bring our iniquities to remembrance. Num. 5. 15

To afflict our souls in his sight. Num. 29. 7.

To make him our hope and refuge in the day of evil.

To seek his face, to meet him in his ways: To speak good of his Name: To wait upon him in his Ordinances. Jer. 17. 17

To approach before him in his courts, that we may be satisfied with the goodness of his house, even of his holy Temple. Psal. 65. 4

To set forth the honour of his Name, and make his praise glorious. Psal. 66. 2

To bless our God, and make the voice of his praise to be heard. Verse 8.

To give unto the Lord the glory due unto his Name; to bring an offering, and come into his Courts. Psal. 96. 8

To worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Verse 9.

To exalt the Lord our God, and to worship at his foot-stool. Psal. 99. 5

To

Psal. 116. 17. *To offer unto him the sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and to call upon the Name of the Lord.*

Verse 18. *To pay our vows unto the Lord in the presence of his people, in the Courts of the Lords house.*

Ps. 138. 2. *To worship towards his holy Temple, and to praise his Name for his loving-kindness, and for his truth.*

Ps. 145. 5. *To speak of the glorious honour of his Majesty, and of his wondrous works.*

IV. IV. A desire of his Assistance, acceptance, and attention; that we may be able to perform this duty in an acceptable manner, with such holy affections as he hath required.

Ro. 8. 26. *That his good Spirit may help our infirmities, and make intercession for us.*

Rom. 5. 5. Isa. 64. 7. *That he would shed abroad his love in our hearts, and stir up our souls to lay hold of him.*

Psa. 51. 15 *That he would open our lips, that our mouths may shew forth his praise.*

Isa. 45. 19 *That we may not seek his face in vain.*

Ps. 80. 18. *That he would quicken us to call upon his Name.*

Verse 19. *That he would cause his face to shine upon us, and lift up the light of his countenance.*

1 King. 8. 28. *Have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee to day.*

Verse 30. *Hear thou in Heaven thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, forgive.*

2 King. 19 16. *Lord, bow down thine ears and hear; open Lord, thine eye and see.*

Neh. 1 6. *Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant.*

Psal. 5. 1. *Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation.*

Hearken

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God; for unto thee will I pray. Verse 2.

That he would hear our voice out of his holy Temple, and let our cry come before him even into his ears. Pſal. 18.6

That the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, may be alwayes acceptable in his ſight. Pſ. 19.14.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice; have mercy alſo upon me, and anſwer me. Pſa. 27.7.

Give ear to my Prayer, O God, and hide not thy ſelf from my ſupplication. Attend unto me, and hear me. Pſ. 55.1,2

Let my Prayer come before thee; incline thine ear unto my cry. Pſal. 88.2

Lord hear my voice; let thine ear be attentive to the voice of my ſupplication. Pſ. 130 2.

Let my Prayer be ſet forth before thee as incenſe, and the lifting up of my hands as the Evening-ſacrifice. Pſ. 141.2.

Hear my Prayer, O Lord, give ear to my ſupplications; in thy faithfulneſs anſwer me, and in thy righteouſneſs. Pſ. 143.1.

Hear me ſpeedily, O Lord, my ſpirit faileth; hide not thy face from me, leſt I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Verſe 7.

Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holineſs, and of thy glory. Iſa. 63.15

Some one, or more of theſe particulars, may upon ſeveral occaſions, afford fitting matter for a *Preface*; which is the firſt thing to be conſidered and enlarged, in conceiving a *Form of Prayer.*

CHAP. VII.

Confession of sins, by Enumeration *of them; and first of* Original *sin.*

NExt to the *Preface*, *Confession* does, according to the more usual and ordinary course, succeed.

The first thing to be confessed in the *Enumeration* of sin (as is before expressed in the scheme of Confession) is *Original* sin.

Eccl. 7. 29. *Whereas God at first made man upright, he hath since corrupted himself, by seeking out many inventions.*

Jer. 2. 21. *He planted our first Parents a noble Vine, a right seed; but they quickly turned into degenerate Plants of a strange Vine.*

Isa. 48. 8. *So that we are transgressors from the womb.*

Psal. 51. 1. *Being shapen in iniquity, and conceived in sin.*

Isa. 1. 4. *A seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters.*

Rom. 11. *Branches of the wild Olive.*

Eph. 2. 1. *Being naturally dead in trespasses and sins.*

Children of wrath; bearing about us,

Verse 3. *The old man.*

Rom. 6. 6. *A body of sin, and of death.*

Ro. 7. 24. *A law of our members.*

Verse 23. *Being born only of the flesh.*

John 3. 6. *Having sin that dwells in us.*

Rom. 7. 17 *And is alwayes present with us.*

Verse 21. *And doth so easily beset us.*

Heb. 12. 1.

This *Original* sin hath been propagated to us, both

both by { Imputation. / Real Communication.

1. By *Imputation* of *Adams* particular transgression, in eating the forbidden fruit; for we were legally parties in that Covenant which was at first made with him, and therefore cannot but expect to be liable unto the guilt which followed upon the breach of it. *By one man sin entred into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men.* Rom. 5.

2. By real *Communication* of evil concupiscence, and depravation upon our natures, which was the consequent of the first rebellion: We were all of us naturally in our first Parents, as the streams in the fountain, or the branches in the root, and therefore must needs partake of the same corrupted nature with them; For *who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?* And *what is man that he should be clean? or he that is born of woman, that he should be righteous?* This might justly make us more loathsome and abominable in Gods eyes, then either Toads or Vipers, or any other the most venomous hurtful creatures are in ours; and for this alone, he might justly cut us off, and condemn us, though it were meerly for the prevention of that mischief and enmity against him, which the very principles of our natures are infected with. Job 14.4. Job 15.14

Though man were at first made *little lower than the Angels, being crowned with glory and honour*; having dominion over the other creatures, all things being put under his feet; yet this corruption of our nature hath now made us become Psa. 8.5,6.

Ps.49.20. *more vile than the beasts that perish.*

'Tis the root and the fountain of all other sin, from whence every actual abomination does proceed. Atheism, and Pride, and Baseness, and Cruelty, and Profaneness, and every other vice, which the most wicked wretch in the World is guilty of, doth proceed from hence. Hell it self, which is the proper place of sin, is not more full of sin, for the kinds of it, than our natures are. If there be any particular sin which we have not faln into in our *lives*, 'tis not for want of corrupt principles and dispositions in our *natures*, which do incline us to all; but by reason of Gods *restraining* or *renewing* Grace, which hath as yet with-held us from them; without which we should break out into as great abominations as were ever committed by the vilest of the sons of men.

All that pravity and baseness, which fills up every part and power about us, are but diffusions of our Original corruption: what a world of mischief is there in our several parts? Our Wills, Affections, our Tongues, Eyes. And yet all these are but as little *Rivulets:* the *Fountain*, or rather the *Sea* that feeds them, is our corrupted nature.

'Tis this that fills us with enmity against all spiritual Truths, and Ordinances; makes us (what we should tremble to think of) haters of God, though he be the God of our life, and of our happiness, in whom we live, and move, and have our beings.

Rom.7.21 Verse 23. Hence is it, that *when we would do good, evil is present with us.* That we have *a law in our mem-*

members, rebelling against the law of our minds, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin.

'Tis this that makes us, like corrupted vessels, to pollute all the gifts that are poured into us; those Graces and Abilities which from God are bestowed upon us pure and excellent, when they are by us put forth in duties, are not without some savour of our own corruption.

This contains in it, not only an utter *deficiency* of all good, but also a *loathing* and disliking of it. Not only a *liableness* to evil, but also an inherent *propension*, and strong desire to it. All which is as natural to us, as blackness to an *Ethiopian*; and, like the *fretting Leprosie*, adheres to our natures with so much pertinacy, that it cannot be utterly removed while we are on this side the grave, till these our earthly tabernacles shall be dissolved. *No soap or nitre can purge it.* The general Deluge could not wash it away; that swept away sinners indeed, but not one sin. Neither shall the fire of the last day cleanse it. Levit. 14. 45. Jer. 2. 22.

It does totally overspread both our { Inward / Outward } Man.

1. Our *Inward man* is hereby depraved, both in respect of
1. Understandings.
2. Consciences.
3. Affections.
4. Wills.
5. Memories.

1. Our *Understandings* are hereby become full of vanity, inconsiderateness, ignorance; neither *knowing nor enquiring after God; every thought and imagination of the heart being only evil, and that* Ro. 3. 11. Gen. 6. 5.

2 Cor. 3. 5 *continually.* So that we are *not of our ſelves ſufficient to think any thing that is good.* Being given over to a *reprobate mind*, νὸν ἀδόκιμον, *a mind void*
Rom 1. 28 *of judgment. Not liking to retain God in our know-*
Verſe 21. *ledg. Becoming vain in our imaginations, having our*
Jer. 4. 24. *wicked hearts darkned. Being wiſe to do evil, but*
1 Cor. 2. 14 *fooliſh to that which is good. Counting the things of*
Rom. 8. 5. *God fooliſhneſs. Being carnally minded,* which is
Verſe 7. *enmity againſt God. For it is not ſubject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be.*

Full of pride, prejudice, and contradiction againſt all ſacred truths, ſetting up our own imaginations, and fleſhly reaſonings, againſt the ſpi-
Eph. 4. 18 ritual notions that are dictated to us. *Being alienated from the life of God, through the blindneſs that is in us.*

2. Our *Conſciences* are hereby become full of
Eph. 4. 19 ſtupidity and inſenſibleneſs, *paſt feeling,* being
1 Tim. 4. 2 *ſeared as with a hot iron.* Altogether *defiled.* Not
Tit. 1. 15. performing their office of *bearing witneſs, accu-*
Rom. 2. 15 *ſing,* or *excuſing us* rightly, according to ſeveral occaſions. Being deaf unto every holy ſuggeſtion of Gods Spirit, ſecure againſt all the threats and judgments of the Law.

Gen 8. 21 3. Our *Hearts* and *Affections* being *evil from our youth:* full of wicked policies, and un-
Jer. 17. 9. ſearchable deceits. *Deceitful above all things, and deſperately wicked, who can know them?* Full
Gal 5. 7. of *luſtings againſt the Spirit of God: Sending forth*
Ma. 15. 19 *evil thoughts, murthers, adulteries, fornications, theſts, falſe-witneſs, blaſphemies;* Full of *folly* and
Eccle. 9. 3 *madneſs*, preferring empty, tranſitory contentments, before thoſe great matters that concern

our

our eternity. Altogether obdurate against the means of grace, not to be wrought upon either by hopes, or fears; by mercies, or judgments; slighting the threats of God; undervaluing his promises; distrusting his power; abusing his patience; quickly *revolting*, and *backsliding* from every holy desire. Jer. 5. 23. Ps. 14. 14.

Who can say I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sins? Pro. 20. 9.

4. Our *Wills* have now lost their first native freedom, making us become *servants unto sin: bringing us into bondage unto corruption.* Being full of loathing and averseness, full of enmity and obstinacy against any thing that is good. Jer. 8. 24. 2 Pet. 2. 19.

Casting Gods laws behind our backs, and hating to be reformed. Ps. 50. 17.

5. Our *Memories* being naturally very unfaithful and *slippery*, in letting out things that are good, but very tenacious in evil matters. Heb. 2. 1.

II. Our *Outward man*, which was at first created with a kind of Divine Majesty, above the other creatures, is now become weak and vile, exposed to all manner of infirmities, diseases, sins. So that we are all over nothing else but *a body of sin and death, our members being instruments of unrighteousness.* II. Rom. 6. 13.

Eyes full of Adultery, Pride, Envy. 2 Pet. 2. 14.

Ears *uncircumcised*, deaf unto every holy suggestion; easily open and attentive to vanities, lies, slanders. Acts 7. 51.

Tongues *unruly, and full of deadly poyson*, containing *a world of iniquity*; *Defiling the whole body, setting on fire the course of nature, being themselves* Jam. 3. 8. Verse 6.

ſelves ſet on fire of Hell. Given to unſavoury, unedifying diſcourſes, revilings, profaneneſs, blaſphemies. That which ſhould be *our glory, The beſt member that we have*, is by this Original corruption, become the worſt, defiling all the reſt.

Pſal. 57. 8. Pſ. 108. 1.

Rom. 3. 13 Verſe 14. 15, 16, 17, 18. Our Throat *being as an open ſepulcher; with our tongues we uſe deceit, the poyſon of aſps is under our lips. Our mouth is full of curſing and bitterneſs: our feet are ſwift to ſhed blood: deſtruction and miſery are in our wayes; and the way of peace have we not known: there is no fear of God before our eyes.*

All which will yet appear more deformed and loathſome, if we look upon our own natures in the rage, blaſphemies, baſeneſs, madneſs of other mens lives: There being not any kind of evil, which either man or devil hath committed, but there are in our natures the principles and inclinations to it: The beſt of us being by nature as bad as the worſt of ſinners.

To which may be added our aptneſs to ſlight and undervalue the thought of this Original corruption, though it hath already brought ſo much miſchief upon all mankind, wholly depraved us in our faculties and principles, and ſpred a curſe and deformity upon the whole Creation.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Enumeration of actual Sins, both National and Personal; against the Law and Gospel; and particularly against the first Commandment.

IN the *Enumeration* of sin, next to *Original*, we are to acknowledg our *Actual* transgressions, which flow from the other, as *acts* do from their *habits*.

These in the general, are distinguishable into sins *National*, and *Personal*; of *Omission*, and *Commission*; in *thought*, *word* and *deed*, the particulars of which do refer to some kind of *breach* against the {Law. / Gospel.} {First / Second} Table. and may properly be enumerated under those heads to which they appertain. Every Commandment having in it both a {Positive / Negative} part, and comprehending the obedience of the whole man.

But now, because it may be sometimes convenient to make a distinct recital of *National* sins, therefore we ought to be observant, and prudent in the choice of fitting matter to this purpose.

There are three things that will raise a sin to a publick guilt, and make it become *National*.

1. Com-

1. Common practice.
Heb. 2, 12 2. Publick eſtabliſhment or connivance.
3. General inſenſibleneſs.

1. Theſe are variouſly applicable (according to the condition of ſeveral times) both to offences againſt the firſt or ſecond Table. As Idolatry, Superſtition, Hereſie, Prophaneneſs, Incouragement to wild and deſperate Errors; Ingratitude and unfruitfulneſs under publick and common Mercies; ſecurity and inadvertency under all thoſe various diſpenſations that befall us, inconſiderateneſs of the day of our viſitation, and the things that concern our peace, loathing of our ſpiritual Manna, breach of our publick and ſolemn engagements.

2. Blood-guiltineſs, Cruelty, Injuſtice, Oppreſſion, Perfidiouſneſs, Bitterneſs; A ſpirit of Diſobedience, Confuſion, Giddineſs in reſpect of Civil order, *&c.*

Dan. 9. 17 Hitherto appertain *the iniquities of our fathers*, and of all publick orders and degrees of men; *Our*
Neh. 9. 34 *Kings, our Princes, our Prieſts*; which ought upon ſome ſpecial occaſions to be acknowledged and bewailed. But theſe are not reducible unto any particular Catalogue, becauſe they do continually vary according to ſeveral times.

In the enumeration of *Perſonal* ſins, a man ought chiefly to inſiſt upon thoſe particulars, whereof he is more eſpecially guilty: But withal, he ſhould know, and (upon ſeveral occaſions) be able to reckon up the ſpecies and kinds of all ſins.

See *Biſhop Downhams Abſtract.* Theſe may beſt be diſcovered by looking upon the

the divine law, according to its latitude & fulneſs, examining what is therein { Injoyned, / Forbidden } concerning either the duties of *Piety* towards God in the *firſt* Table, or the duties of *Charity* towards our *Neighbour* in the *ſecond* Table: Biſhop *Andrews Catechiſ.* Maſter *Brinſleys Watch*, 1 *Part*.

The firſt Commandment does forbid the not having *Jehovah* alone for our God, and conſequently the not knowing, not believing, not adhering, not ſubmitting to him: The not behaving our ſelves towards him, in all reſpects, as our God.

So that we ſin againſt this by *Ignorance*, when we do not labour after ſuch a meaſure of knowledg in divine truths, as is proportionable to the callings wherein we are, the *time* and *means* which we have had. When *we do not deſire the knowledg of Gods ways*, being *content to ſit in darkneſs, and in the region and ſhadow of death.* Ignorance. Heb. 5. 12. Job 21. 14. Mat. 4. 16.

Not endeavouring to acquaint our ſelves with his Power, Majeſty, Juſtice, Mercy, Wiſdom, Unchangeableneſs, and thoſe other Attributes of the Divine Nature. Not ſearching the Scriptures, *proving the things that are more excellent.* Phil. 1. 10

When our knowledg is only literal and *uneffectual*, not working anſwerable obedience in our lives, when we are not careful to obſerve and conſider, and treaſure up in our hearts thoſe holy truths, which at any time have been diſcovered to us; But *ſuffer them to ſlip from us*, by inadvertency or forgetfulneſs. Not ruminating upon them, or recalling them to mind, according to our ſeveral occaſions. Lu. 12. 47 Heb. 2. 1.

By

Infidelity By *Infidelity*, when we do not assent unto his Law, as being *holy*, *just*, and *good*: Not labouring to strengthen our faith in his holy Attributes and Word. Not so firmly believing his *threats* and *judgments*, as to be humbled thereby; or his *promises*, as to be invited by them unto newness of *life*.

Diffidence By *Diffidence*, Not adhering to him with all
Ps. 55. 22. our hearts, not *casting our burden upon him*; Not trusting him in the want of outward means, full of carking and sollicitous thoughts; apt to put
Jer: 17. 5. our confidence in *arms of flesh*, broken reeds, lying vanities.

Want of *Love*. By want of *Love*, not loving of him with all our affections and might; preferring the love of our selves, of pleasure, riches, honour, and the like earthly vanities, before that infinite and absolute good that may be found in him. Suffering our shame, worldliness, security, hopes, fears, dependancies, want of leisure, and such like poor respects, to seduce our affections from him, and to hinder our communion with him. Loving his creatures, his enemies, any thing, rather than
Jer. 2. 13. himself; *forsaking the Fountain of living Waters, and hewing out to our selves broken Cisterns that will*
Isa. 55. 2. *hold no water. Spending our time and our money for that which is not bread, and our labour for that which satisfieth not.*

Want of *Zeal*. By *want of Zeal*, Not being zealous for his glory, in the forward and cheerful use of such means whereby it may be *promoted* in a fervent and resolute opposition of those things that may *hinder* it: In an hearty sense and sorrow for those reigning corruptions, either *publick* in the *times*,

or

or *private* in our own *ſouls*, whereby it hath been *abuſed*; wronging good cauſes, either by our lukewarmneſs, or elſe by our blind, indiſcreet zeal.

By *want of rejoycing* in him, not *ſerving him with gladneſs of heart*: Not *rejoycing in the Lord*: Not finding any ſuch relliſh in his holy Word and Ordinances, whereby they may ſeem ſweeter than the honey and the honey-comb; but rather counting his wayes grievous and burdenſome unto us. Want of Joy. Deut. 28. 47. Iſa. 61. 10.

By *Unthankfulneſs* for thoſe *great mercies* which are freely beſtowed upon us, *not rendring unto the Lord according to the benefits we receive*; failing in the acknowledgment of them, letting them ſlip by us without any regard or notice; being too apt to aſcribe Gods bleſſings unto our own deſerts and endeavours. *Sacrificing to our own nets.* Subject to forget his favours, though he doth renew them every moment: And amongſt thoſe few that we do take notice of, and remember, yet our thankfulneſs for the *receipt* of them, is no way proportionable to our importunity in the *want* of them. Expreſſing our ſlighting of them, even in our very Thankſgiving for them. Not mentioning them with any hearty ſenſe or affection. Not willing to acknowledg them by charity towards his diſtreſſed members, according to our abilities and opportunities. But rather *returning evil for good, and hatred for his good will*: Like *Jeſhurun*, waxing fat and kicking with the heel. Abundance making us wanton, and contemptuouſly to ſpurn at his Laws. Lading and weary- Unthankfulneſs. 2 Chr. 32. 25. Hab. 1. 16. Pſ. 109. 5. Deut. 32. 15.

wearying him with our sins, whilest he does continually heap upon us his unwearied mercies.

Impatience. By our *Impatience* under those *small* crosses that are justly inflicted upon us. Not behaving our selves humbly and chearfully under Gods fatherly chastisements. *Not accepting the punishment of our iniquity*, though it be much *less then we have deserved*. Not *bearing the indignation of the Lord*, as considering how *we have sinned against him*. Being subject to murmuring and repining, to fainting and despair, to seek help and deliverance by unlawful means.

Le. 26. 41. Ezr. 9. 13. Mic. 7. 9.

Disobedience. By want of submission, and *obedience* unto him, according to our duty and profession; very inconstant in our holy services, temporary, and by fits, subject to backslide and revolt upon every slight temptation. *Our goodness being as the morning cloud, and as the early dew which passeth away.* Not *Universal* in our obedience, but partial, and by halves; apt to pick and chuse in our duties, according as they may best suit with our own humors, and the course of the times, not having respect to *all his commandments*. Not hating *every false way*. Not *hearty* and sincere in our performances, doing them with *all our might*, but Hypocritically, Perfunctorily, Negligently.

Hos. 6. 4.

Ps. 119. 6. Verse 128.

Security and Presumption. By our not *fearing* of God, according to the infinite Power, Justice, Majesty of the Divine Nature; or according to those manifold sins whereby we have provoked his wrath; behaving our selves with much security and inadvertency under all the various dispensations of his Providence, as if we our selves were not at all concerned

ed in them. Not *regarding the works of the Lord, nor considering the operation of his hands*; still going on *after the imagination of our own hearts, as if we had made a Covenant with death, and with hell were at an agreement*; very apt to promise to our selves peace, and impunity, though we do still persevere in our wonted rebellions; very subject to slavish, worldly fears, of *man that shall die, and the sons of men that shall be made as grass. Forgetting the Lord our Maker, who stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth.* Not *grieving when he strikes us, refusing to receive correction, though he does consume us, making our faces harder than a rock, and refusing to return.* Isa. 65. 21. Isa. 28. 12. Isa. 51. 12, 13. Jer. 5. 3.

By not demeaning our selves *humbly* before him, according as our own vileness, and the greatness of his mercy does require. Pride.

Behaving our selves in our general course, as if we were *desirous* to live without God here, and *content* to be annihilated hereafter, so we might but in this world enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

CHAP. IX.

Sins against the second Commandment.

THE second Commandment does concern the *Manner* and *Means* of Gods Worship. Against which we sin, not onely by representing

senting and worshipping of him in Images, but also by entertaining gross misconceits of the Divine Nature, by mixing any will-worship, superstition, or our own inventions with his service; when we do not serve him after such a way as is agreeable to his Nature, and required in his Joh. 4. 24. Word, that is, not *in spirit and truth*; not with uprightness, sincerity, cheerfulness.

Manner. 1. It will here concern us to examine how exceedingly we have failed in the *manner* of those good duties which we have attempted; how much *averseness* there is in us from *setting about them*: How much *distraction* and *benumbedness* of spirit in the *Performance* of them: How much impotency and *weariness* in the *Continuance* of them: How much pride, unspiritualness, formality, want of relish, deadness, uncomfortableness there is mixed with our best services: Serving God with Psal. 17. 1. *feigned lips*. Isa. 29. 13 *Drawing near to him with our mouths, and honouring him with our lips, when our hearts are far from him*. Resting our selves in the meer out-sides of duties, when we do not enjoy any Communion with God in them.

Means: 2. We ought to examine our failings, in respect of the *means* or kinds of Divine Worship. Our carelessness to keep our selves close in a continual holy Communion with God by the right use of all his sacred Ordinances.

1. Prayer, both { Private. Publick.
2. Ministry of the Word.
3. Receiving of the Sacraments.

Our failings in *Prayer*. 1. Our negligence in setting any solemn time apart

apart for our ſecret Devotions betwixt God and our ſouls. Omitting them upon every trivial occaſion, or ſlight pretence of buſineſs. Our careleſneſs in the *private* obſervance of this duty with our families and near relations, and in *publick* with the Congregation. Our approaching before God without that preparation, reverence, or attention, as becomes ſuch vile creatures ſpeaking to ſo great a Majeſty. *Regarding iniquity in our hearts, not calling upon him in truth: Flattering him with our mouths, and lying to him with our tongues, when our heart is not right with him.* Pſ. 66. 18. Pſ. 145. 18 Pſ. 78. 36.

Not *Confeſſing* our ſins with that ſorrow, *ſhame, and confuſion of face*, as having thereby ſo much diſhonoured his glorious Name, and endangered our own ſalvation; being rather *apt to cover our tranſgreſſion with* Adam, *by hiding our iniquity in our boſome.* Or if we do *acknowledg* them, yet we are not careful to forſake them, but do ſtill go on in a continual round of *confeſſing* and *committing*, *committing* and *confeſſing* again. Dan. 9. 8. Job 31. 33

Failing very much in the *Matter* of our Petitions, not asking thoſe things *which are according to his will.* Apt to make our prejudicate opinions, and paſſionate wiſhes, the ſubject of our Prayers, inſtead of the holy and unchangeable will of God. For the *Manner* of them, not with *faith and fervency*, as being truly ſenſible of our own wants, or as if we did really believe this duty to be an effectual means for the ſupply of them. Not tenderly affectionate in our forgiving others, or our interceding for them. 1 Joh. 5. 14

In our *Thankſgiving*, not mentioning the favours

vours we have received, with any ſuch hearty ſenſe of them, as may ſtir up in our ſouls chear-
Pſal. 9. 1. fulneſs, love, gratitude. Not praiſing God with
Pſ. 103. 1. *our whole hearts*, and *all that is within us.*

Coming before him with cuſtomary devotion, rather to ſatisfie the ſcruples of a natural conſcience, than out of any true love to this duty it ſelf, or experimental evidence of comfort to be had by it; our hearts being apt to wander from him, even whilſt we are ſpeaking with him; to think but lightly of him, whileſt we pretend much honour to him.

Not retaining any taſte and reliſh of theſe duties, after they are ended: Not living ſuitably to them: Not taking notice how God does anſwer our Prayers in the ſeveral paſſages of his Providence towards us.

Failings in reſpect of the Miniſtry of the Word.

2. For the Ordinance of *Preaching*, the *Miniſter* does herein offend, by being negligent and ſloathful in his Calling, not preaching with that conſtancy, faithfulneſs, ſimplicity, judgment, authority, courage, demonſtration of the Spirit, as he ſhould. The *People* by neglecting to hear and read the Word, according to their ſeveral
Before. opportunities By not preparing themſelves for this holy exerciſe. Not coming unto it with hungring and thirſting deſire, and loving, believing, prizing it, as being of ſuch great efficacy and neceſſity for our everlaſting well-beings, *able to ſave our ſouls*; Bringing with them much *carnal ſecurity*, which makes them without any deſire or care to profit by it; much *impenitence* and *hardneſs* of heart: Not without ſome ſe-

cret

cret resolutions of continuing in their former courses, whatever shall be said to the contrary: Many *worldly cares* and thoughts, with *high conceits* of their own sufficiencies; *prejudice* against their Teachers; *curiosity*, not to *learn*, but to *censure*; itching ears, rather to please the fancy, than reform the life.

Not hearkening to it without much irreverence, distraction, infidelity, misapplication, obstinacy, dulness, weariness: Not receiving it into a good and honest heart, with desire to retain and practise it. At.

Not careful (after they have heard it) to root and fix it in their hearts by Prayer, Meditation, Conference: not expressing the fruit of it in their conversation; slighting those many gracious opportunities, wherein God hath reached forth unto them the proffers of mercy and salvation; and though he hath with much patience waited for their amendment; yet they have still hardned their hearts, and notwithstanding the *former and the latter rain*, do remain like dry stakes in an hedg, barren and fruitless, without any spiritual life or growth, answerable to the means which they have had. After.

3. For the Sacraments, { Baptism. / Supper of the Lord. } Failing in the Sacraments. Baptism. 1 Tim 6. 12.

Our slighting, and renouncing that Covenant which we made in *Baptism*, abusing *that good profession, which we have professed before many witnesses*. Not walking as those that have been received into the bosom of the Church, and distinguished from others that are *without*. Not

fighting againſt the world, the fleſh and the Devil, as becomes ſuch as are liſted in the number of Chriſts faithful ſoldiers and ſervants.

The Lords Supper. And ſo for the Sacrament of *Chriſts body and blood*; our not hungring and thirſting after it, not partaking of it ſo frequently as our neceſſities and opportunities have required.

Before. When we have approached unto it, have we been careful *before-hand*, to ſet any ſolemn time apart for the fitting of our ſelves unto ſo holy a work? have we not been unwilling to *ranſack* and *examine* the ſecret corners of our hearts? to find out, and to purge out thoſe particular boſome ſins, unto which our natures do moſt incline us? after a more eſpecial manner, to excite and ſtir up in our ſelves the Grace of Gods holy ſpirit, to renew thoſe conditions of the *Covenant*, required on our parts, *Faith* and *Repentance*.

1 Cor. 11. 28.

At. *In the receiving* of the Sacrament, have we not been too apt to ſlight and diſeſteem it, as if it were but an empty, common ceremony? Have we behaved our ſelves with ſo much fear and reverence, as might become ſuch a Sacred Myſtery? with ſuch ſpiritual joy and delight, as ſhould be in thoſe who are fit Gueſts for that Table?

After. *After the receipt of it*, have we not quickly forgotten our good reſolutions, relapſed into our old ſins again, not feeling or regarding any ſuch comfort or profit as is promiſed to the right partaking of this Ordinance? Have we not often *eat and drunk unworthily?* and conſequently, *eat and drunk judgment to our ſelves?* becoming

1 Cor. 11. 27. Verſe 29.

ing *guilty of the body and blood of Christ*; doing that horrid act which we so much detested in the Jews, *Crucifying again* our blessed Saviour, Heb. 6. 6. and by slighting the proffers of Mercy in this Sacrament, doing as much as in us lies, to *make his* 1 Cor. 1. 17 *Passion of none effect.*

CHAP. X.

Sins against the Third and Fourth Commandment.

THE Third Commandment does forbid the abuse of Gods Name. By the *Name* of God we are to understand any thing whereby he may be known, as his Titles, Attributes, Ordinances, Works.

So that we sin against this Commandment by wicked Oaths, cursed Execrations, unlawful Vows, every light irreverent mention of God, all such idle words as do no way tend to the sanctifying of his Name.

By breaking the Vow of our Baptism, neglecting all those good promises and resolutions which since we have made. *Dealing falsly in our* Psal. 78. 8. *Covenants*, when our *heart is not set aright, and our spirit not stedfast with God.*

By our not acknowledging, and effectual remembrance of his holy Titles & Attributes as we have had occasion. Not delighting to speak good

of his Name, and to make his praiſe glorious.

By an irreverent and cuſtomary mention of his great and glorious Name, upon trivial occaſions.

By our not thinking and ſpeaking of his Word, ſo frequently, with that holineſs and reverence as we ſhould; ſometimes pretending *to declare his*
Pſ. 50. 16. *Statutes, and to take his Covenant into our mouths, whereas we hate inſtruction, and caſt his Law behind us.*

By our Careleſneſs in vindicating the glory of his Name and Truths, when they are vilified by others.

By profaning our profeſſion of Chriſtianity, with an unholy converſation: Not behaving our ſelves ſo ſincerely in regard of God, nor ſo inoffenſively in reſpect of men, as we ſhould.

By defacing his glorious image inſtamped upon us in our *Creation:* Becoming more *vile and*
Pſ. 49. 10. *fooliſh than the beaſts that periſh.* In our *Regeneration*, relapſing into the ſins of our *unregeneracy.*
Eph. 4. 1. Not *walking worthy of that vocation whereunto we are called.*

By our careleſneſs in diſcovering and acknowledging the Divine Power and Wiſdom, in thoſe ſpecial paſſages of his Providence which befall us,

The fourth Commandment. *The fourth Commandment* does forbid all careleſneſs in ſanctification of

Sabbaths { *Ordinary.* / *Extraordinary.*

So that we ſin againſt this, when we do not *remember* to keep the Lords day holy; that is, when we are not mindful beforehand to prevent and avoid

avoid all such businesses as may distract us in those duties that belong unto this day.

When we our selves do not rest from our usual works and sinful desires, but miss-spend much of that precious time in idleness or vanity, or else satisfying our selves in a superstitious, customary observation of the *outward rest*, without regarding the *means* or the *works* of sanctification.

When we are not careful to prepare our selves for publick duty, by praying for Ministers in *general*, that God would endow them with fitting gifts and abilities, prospering their endeavours, by giving happy success unto their Ministry: More *particularly*, for the Pastor to whose charge we belong, that God would direct him to speak unto our hearts and consciences.

When we are careless in the performing of our publick duties, not with so much reverence, sincerity, spiritualness, attention as we should.

When we are negligent in looking to those that are under us, who by our carelessness or connivance, may be encouraged to the profanation of this day.

When we fail in those private duties that concern the Sanctification of the Sabbath, Meditation of the Word we hear, Searching the Scriptures, to prove the truth of it; Application of it to our selves, examining our own hearts, private prayer, conference, whetting the Law upon one another, mutually exhorting and stirring up each other unto holy duties, contemplating the *Creatures*, and the *Providence* of God. Deu. 11. 19. Psal. 92.

Amos 8.5. When we are weary of the Sabbath, and *wish*
Isa.58.13. *it were gone*, and cannot *call it a delight*.

And so for *extraordinary* days, lawfully set apart for solemn { Feasts. / Fasts. { Publick. / Private }

When we mis-spend our occasional *Festivals* altogether in outward, carnal mirth, without those inward, spiritual duties of Love and Thankfulness, which God requires; not keeping
Neh.8. 9. them *holy unto the Lord*, as we ought to do; not thereby taking occasion to enlarge our bounty to our poor brethren.

And so for days of *Humiliation*, which are cal-
Lev. 23. led *Sabbaths* in Scripture: Our neglect of these
28. when there is any special occasion for them, either publick or private; our insensibleness of dangers and judgments, like the old world, keeping on in the road of our secular employments, *eating*
Mat 24. *and drinking, buying and selling, &c. putting far away*
38. *the evil day; chanting to the sound of the Viol,*
Am.6.3,6 *drinking wine in bowles, but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph:* Not sighing and weeping *for*
Ezek.9. 4 *the abominations that are committed in the midst of us.*

When we do observe these days, we are ready to rest our selves in bodily abstinence, outward mortification, hanging down the heads, sad
Jer.14.10 countenances, without inward *afflicting of the soul:* not *breaking, bruising, renting* of our hearts: *Refraining not our feet, but loving to wander*: not
Jona.3. 8. *turning from all our evil ways, and the violence in our hands.*

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Sins againſt the ſecond Table.

THE ſecond Table doth enjoyn the Duties of *Charity* and *Juſtice* towards our neighbour. Againſt this we ſin, when we do not love our neighbours with ſuch true, unfeigned love, as our ſelves; when we do not deal ſo with others, as we deſire they ſhould deal with us; when we do not pray for them, and endeavour their good as our own. Mat. 7. 12.

In the fifth Commandment are forbidden the Vices which concern the relations of

{ Superiors.
{ Interiors.

So that we ſin againſt this, by not behaving our ſelves anſwerably to our ſeveral relations: Not *modeſtly* and *gravely* to our *Inferiors*; going before them in an example of good life: Not *humbly* and *dutifully* to our *Superiors*; not ſubmitting to them for *Conſcience ſake*, as being *ordained of God*: Not thankfully to our *Benefactors*, either not remembring, or not acknowledging, or not eſteeming, or not requiting them as we might. 1 Pet. 2. 13. Rom. 13. 1, 2.

Subject to *envy* and *extenuate* thoſe ſpecial gifts of others, whereby they have attained any preheminence above our ſelves.

Hitherto likewiſe appertain the Vices which do more particularly concern the relations of

Parents:

Parents: Not educating, instructing, chastising their children so carefully: Not providing and praying for them as they should.

Children: Not loving and reverencing their Parents, not submitting to them, nor being so thankful towards them as they might.

Husband: Not behaving himself as a *Head*, to govern, instruct, and cherish his Wife.

Wife: By being irreverent, unquiet, not an helper, but an hinderer of her Husband's good.

Masters: Not careful in directing, governing, punishing, rewarding their servants.

Servants: Disobedient, slothful, unfaithful, answering again, murmuring.

Aged: Not sober and grave, not wise and exemplary in their carriage.

Younger: Irreverent towards the persons of the Ancient, neglecting their good counsels and examples.

Superiours: In *gifts*, whether *inward*, of the mind, or *outward* of the estate, in respect of Nobility, Riches, *&c.* abusing of their gifts unto scorn, pride, oppression, not doing so much good as the advantage of their abilities and places does require.

Inferiours: Either too much disdaining, or too much flattering those above them.

Magistrates: Want of diligence and uprightness in the discharge of their places.

Subjects: Not so respective, serviceable, submissive as they should.

Teachers: Negligent in taking all occasions of

of instructing, reforming others by { Counsel. / Example.

Learners: Not teachable, inquisitive, *&c.*

The sixth Commandment doth forbid all those sins which are against the health and welfare of our *own*, or our Neighbours { Bodies. / Souls. The sixth Commandment.

So that we sin against this, not only by *outward* acts of *violence*, but also by an aptness to entertain prejudice and misconceits against others: by rash, immoderate anger, injurious, revengeful thoughts, secret grudges, hatred, and implacableness. Mat. 5. 22 1 Joh. 3. 15

By failing in those particulars which concern the maintenance of mutual peace and friendship amongst one another: By haughty, insolent carriage; Reviling, scoffing, provoking speeches.

Being senseless and hard-hearted in the miseries of our brethren; not weeping with them that weep; not being heartily affected at those publick evils wherein we our selves are not more immediately and particularly concerned.

By wounding and murthering the souls of others through scandal { Active, misguiding them, / Passive, grieving them, when we encourage them in their evil courses, either by Provocation, Counsel, Example, Connivance.

By the levity and unprofitableness of conversing amongst others; when we do not labour to stir them up unto holiness, according to our several opportunities and relations; not instructing the ignorant, comforting the weak, admonishing

moniſhing, exhorting, encouraging others unto well-doing.

By neglecting our own bodily health and welfare, through intemperance, immoderate paſſions, *&c.*

By being careleſs of our own ſouls, not providing for the days of death and judgment, but thruſting them far from us, bidding thoſe days care for themſelves. By quenching and ſuppreſſing thoſe holy motions that are at any time ſuggeſted unto our hearts, preferring the baſe things of this world, before thoſe great matters that concern Eternity.

The ſeventh Commandment.

The ſeventh Commandment does forbid all *kinds* of *uncleanneſs*, both of body and ſoul, together with the *means* and *ſigns* of it.

Againſt this we ſin, not only by committing any *outward* act of uncleanneſs, either by our ſelves, or with others: But alſo,

Mat. 5. 28. By the *Adultery of the heart*, by having our minds full of unchaſt deſires, by cheriſhing in our ſelves any luſtful, unlawful affections. By delighting our thoughts in the fancy and ſpeculation of thoſe luſts which we have not opportunity to act,

When we do not labour to quench our fleſhly concupiſcence, by vigilancy over our own hearts and ways, by avoiding all evil company, and ſuch other occaſions as may inflame us: when we are not moderate in our delights, modeſt in our carriage, temperate in our diet, diligent and painful in our callings.

When our *eyes* are full of Adultery, when our *ears* are willingly open to filthy and unclean com-

communication, when our *tongues* are given to rotten and unsavoury speeches.

When we are not wary and circumspect in avoiding all suspicions and appearances of this evil.

The eighth Commandment does forbid all those vices which do concern our own, or our neighbours outward estate; as Theft, Oppression, Deceit, Sacriledg, Usury, Bribery, Prodigality. The eighth Commandment.

We offend against this, not only by those external acts of theft and injustice, which humane law does take notice of: But also,

By the *Love of money*, which is the *root of all evil*; by being discontent at our estates, greedy of gain, full of restless and insatiable desires after these earthly profits. 1 Tim. 6. 10.

When we are not so strict and conscionable in the means of getting wealth; either negligent and idle in those callings wherein we should provide for our selves and our families, or else too much *hasting to be rich*, by violence and oppression, craft or over-reaching, by being unfaithful in our words and promises: Not so upright and sincere in our dealings with others, nor conscionable in paying their dues. Prov. 28. 20.

When we are not wise and moderate in the use of these outward things: Not so discreet in laying out the Talents committed to our stewardship; too sparing and *parsimonious* unto good purposes; too *lavish* about dishoneſt and unnecessary occasions.

The ninth Commandment does forbid those vices which concern our own, or our neighbours *reputation*, as Slander, Credulity, hearing of tale-bearers, The ninth Commandment.

bearers, Censuring, Sinister Suspicions, Flattery, Silence in defending, *&c.*

Against this we sin, not only when we do publickly concur with others in false judgment against our neighbours; But also

When we are not charitable in our speaking, hearing, thinking of others.

Subject to reviling, scornful, slanderous speeches, very ready to speak ill, and to spread the faults of our neighbours, when it does no way concern us, or is like to benefit others.

Willing to entertain Back-biters, Tale-bearers, Scoffers, ready to listen unto any report that tends unto the defamation of others, too much affected unto *flattering tongues* and *deceitful lips*: Busie and medling in the affairs of others, where we are not concerned.

Full of Credulity, and rash belief, in judging of ill rumors, too lyable unto uncharitable suspicions, apt to interpret good things ill, and doubtful matters in the worst sense.

Not so careful in upholding our neighbours credit, by admonishing, exhorting, rebuking him, according to our *Callings* and *opportunities*.

Subject to arrogant, high conceits of our selves, and yet very negligent in those wayes whereby we may establish our reputations; Not labouring to be such as we would seem to be; Not endeavouring to keep a good conscience before God, and *a good report before men*. Not avoiding all *appearance of evil*.

The tenth Commandment.

The tenth and last Commandment does forbid any concupiscence against our neighbour, though

before

before the consent of the will; whether by covetousness, self-love, evil thoughts, envy.

Against this we sin, when we have not such a holy disposition in our minds unto the duties of Charity, as God hath required.

When we are apt to favour and entertain the tentations that are suggested to us.

When our minds are full of evil fancies and wicked perturbations, arising from our corrupted natures.

When we delight our selves in any evil imagination, *keeping it close, and rolling it* in our thoughts, though our minds (perhaps) do not consent to the acting of it. Job 20. 12, 13.

CHAP. XII.

Sins against the Gospel.

NExt to these transgressions against the *Law*, we ought to enumerate our sins against the *Gospel*, which for the general kinds of them, are reducible to these two heads, { Unbelief. / Impenitence.

1. Our *Unbelief*, in the several degrees of it. 1. Unbelief.

Not labouring to *acquaint* our selves with the Duties, Promises, Priviledges of the Gospel, though it does contain the best *glad tidings*, and of the greatest consequence, that can possibly be imagined.

Our not *assenting* to it, according to its full latitude

titude, being eaſily carried about with every wind of doctrine, any wild erroneous fancy; apt
Pſ. 123. 5. to *turn aſide unto our own crooked ways*, and to have
2 Cor. 11. 3 our *mind corrupted from the ſimplicity that is in*
Tit. 1. 13. *Chriſt*; *not being found in the faith.*

Our not *loving* and *eſteeming* of it. Not ſufficiently admiring that miracle of divine bounty,
Rom. 5. 8. wherein the *Love* of God was more eſpecially *commended* and *manifeſted* towards us, in that he
1 Joh. 4. 9. ſent *his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

Our too much ſlighting and undervaluing the great love and merits of our bleſſed Redeemer. *Treading under foot the Son of God, profaning the*
Heb. 10. 29. *blood of the Covenant*, and doing what we could *to make Chriſts paſſion of none effect.* Being apt to
Phil. 3. 8. prefer *droſs* and *dung* before *the excellency of the*
Col. 3. 11. *knowledg of Chriſt Jeſus our Lord.* Not counting
Rom. 5. 11 him *all in all.* Not *rejoycing in God through our*
Gal. 6. 14. *Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom we have received the Atonement.* Not *glorying alone in Chriſt, and him crucified.* Not counting his favour and loving kindneſs to be *better than life.* Not *claiming his*
Pſal. 119. 115. *promiſes as our heritage, eſteeming them the joy of*
Eph. 3. 8. *our hearts.* Not looking upon them as being *un-*
2 Pet. 1. 4. *ſearchable riches*; *exceeding great and precious.*

Our not *living by faith* in all eſtates and conditions; Not *embracing* the promiſes of the Goſpel with ſo much *readineſs*, nor *adhering* to them with ſo much *ſtedfaſtneſs*, as the *excellency* and *certainty* of them do require.

Not improving and applying this rich treaſure of Goſpel-promiſes, unto the various changes of this

his *temporal* life, in respect of { Prosperity. / Adversity.
Being very apt to be altogether immersed in sensitive, external things, without reflecting upon those advantages we might from thence enjoy in this regard.

And so for our *spiritual* life, being apt to rely on our own righteousness and self-justifications, thereby endeavouring (as much as in us lies) to deprive Christ of his Saviour-ship.

Not owning of Christ in all his Offices; not willing to accept of him as well for our *Lord*, as our *Saviour*.

And this *heart of unbelief* does prove unto us a root of *Apostacy*, making us to *depart from the living God*. Heb. 3. 12.

2. Our *impenitency*, in that when God had in some measure discovered unto us our own miserable condition by reason of the *Covenant of works*, we have not yet humbled our selves in any proportion to the multitude or greatness of our sins; nor applied our selves with any fervency of heart unto the only means of Pardon and Reconciliation in the *Covenant of Grace*. 2 Impenitency.

Not being *inquisitive* after our sins, not endeavouring to examine and find out our particular failings, but rather to hide and excuse them.

Not being *humbled* and grieved for them, as considering that wretched injustice, folly, unkindness, that we have expressed by them.

Not *resolving* and *striving* against them; not improving all advantages for the avoiding and subduing of them.

Refusing to repent, though God has vouchsafed
Rev. 2. 21 us *time* and *means*. *Though light be come into the*
Joh. 3. 19. *world, yet loving darkness rather than light.* Re-
2 Cor. 6. 1 *ceiving the grace of God in vain. Turning it into*
Jude v. 4. *wantonness. Tempting, grieving, quenching the holy*
Eph. 4. 30 *Spirit of God, whereby we should be sealed to the day of Redemption.*

Hardning our selves by a custom and delight
Rom. 2. 5. in sin; and by this means, *Treasuring up for our selves wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of the righteous Judgment of God.*

It is here to be observed, that though these two sins be more *immediately* and *directly* against the *Gospel*, yet the other breaches of the *Law* before mentioned, are in some sense *reducible* also under this head, *Evangelical* obedience including *Legal*, as subordinate to it; and the *Law* being the rule of *Gospel*-conversation. And for this reason I am the more brief upon this head.

We should here likewise remember, that all these offences before enumerated, are but the *generals* and *kinds* of our sins. The *particular* acts of them being past our numbring. To all which may be added our pronenels to maintain, justifie, extenuate our offences.

CHAP. XIII.

Concerning the Aggravation of sins.

BEsides the *Enumeration* of our sins, it is also requisite that we understand somewhat concerning the *Aggravation* of them, whereby they

they may appear *exceeding sinful*, that so we may be the better affected with a self-abhorrency and humiliation for them. Rom. 7. 13

Aggravation may be either of { Sin in *General*. / *Kinds* of sin. / *Particular* sins.

1. Sin in general may be aggravated, either by its { Greatness. / Multitude. } In both which respects it is eminent above any thing else; as for other matters, if they be *great*, they are but *few*; if *many*, they are but *small*. But sin exceeds in both these *Manifold* transgressions, and *mighty* sins Am. 5. 12.

1. The *greatness* of its evil may be discerned in its { Nature, / Effects, both in regard of { Christ. / Our selves. / Other creatures. } } Mr. *Goodwin's* aggravation of sin.

1. All sin in its own *Nature* and essence, is *enmity against God*. Now, as *he that hateth his brother, is a murderer*; so he that hateth God, may be said to be a murderer of him, Because in his heart he wishes that he were not. The holy Ghost fitly stiles it, The excrement, The *superfluity of naughtiness*; implying, that if all other evils were to have a scum, a superfluity, 'tis sin must be it. 'Tis worse than the *Devil* himself, it made him to be so. 'Tis worse than *Hell*, that is but opposite to the good of the *Creature*, this of the *Creator*. And if the greatness of the *malady* may be judged by the cost and difficulty of the *Cure*, it will easily appear that no evil is so great as this, because nothing could serve for the remedy of it, but the infinite precious blood of Jesus Christ: 'Tis so great an evil, that there can Rom. 8. 7. 1 Joh. 3 17 περισσεία κακίας. Jam. 1. 21.

be no greater *punishment* of it, than by it self; when God would deal with a man as a most desperate enemy, he gives him up to sin. There can be no worse *epithete* or *expression* for it, then it self. When the Apostle would speak the worst of
Rom. 7. 13 it he could, he calls it by its own name, *sinful sin.*

2. For the Effects of it, in regard

1. Of *Christ*, who had it only by imputation, as our Surety. It was the cause of all his bitter Agonies; it afflicted his soul, and broke his heart, making him to cry out, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

2. In respect of our *selves*; it hath utterly undone all mankind, debased our souls, which were fit companions for God himself, unto a servile, shameful condition; Deprived them of that glorious Image, wherein all our happiness and excellency did consist; and made us more vile than the beasts that perish.

Rom. 8. 3. In respect of the other *Creatures*; it hath
23. brought a vanity and curse upon the whole Cre-
Gen. 3. 17 ation, causing all the miseries and sorrows in this
Hag. 2. 13 world, and those eternal torments in the world to come.

All which mischief is contained in the *nature*, and might be *effected* by any the least *particular* sin. Now if *every* sin have in it so much deformity and danger; if our *least* offences do contain in them more enmity and injustice against God, then could be expiated by the whole Creation, and of themselves would be enough to sink us into eternal perdition: how desperate then are
Isa. 1. 18. those *greater* abominations, those *crying sins*, of

of a *ſcarlet* and *crimſon dye*, wherewith our lives have been defiled?

If an infinite wrath be due to our *idle* thoughts, what may we expect them for our unclean, covetous, malicious, proud, atheiſtical, blaſphemous thoughts?

If every *vain* word doth deſerve hell, what depth of damnation then ſhall be inflicted upon thoſe many curſed oaths, lies, bitterneſs, railings, and other unſavoury diſcourſes, whereof we have been guilty?

If our *Righteouſneſs* be as *filthy rags*, if the *iniquity of our holy things* be enough to condemn us, what dregs of indignation may we then expect for our many rebellions, profane, hypocritical actions? If our *ſacrifice* and *obedience* may be counted abomination, what ſhall be thought then of our *Sacrilege* and *Rebellion?*

II. For the *multitude* of our ſins; *Who can tell how oft he offendeth? Our iniquities are encreaſed over us, and our treſpaſſes are grown up unto the heavens. They are more than the hairs of our head.* Pſa 19.12 Ezra 9. 6. Pſ. 40.12. Neither the tongue of men or Angels is able to reckon them up; if there be any impiety which we have not fallen into, 'tis not for want of ſinful inclination in us; but rather becauſe we had not temptations, means, opportunities for the acting of it. To which may be added our continuance in ſin, *as a fountain caſteth out her waters*, without intermiſſion. Jer. 6. 7.

Now if one ſin alone can be enough to expoſe us to damnation; O then how ſhall we be able to ſtand before ſo many ſins which we *know* by our

selves, besides those many secret sins which we have not known? many that we never considered, and very many that we have quite forgotten.

If all the plagues and curses of the Law be due unto those who *continue not in all things written in that Book, to do them*, what fury and wrath then may they look for, who have persevered in a *continual* rebellion against all Gods holy Laws and Commandments?

Gal. 3. 10.

If *one* sin in *Adam* were enough to condemn a whole world; what then may a world of sins do in every one of us?

All which sins will yet appear more hainous, by comparing them with those *many* and *great* favours which we have received.

Kinds of sin.

2. The *Kinds* of sin may be aggravated,

1. By *comparing* them with others which are less evil. 2. By *examining* them according to their full latitude, shewing how many impieties are involved in every one. 3. By distinguishing them into their several degrees.

Heb. 10. 28, 29. 2 cor. 3. 8.

1. By *Comparing* them; for example, sins of *Commission* are in themselves more hainous than sins of *Omission*. Sins against the *Gospel* are in some respects much worse than sins against the *Law*, because they are against greater light and mercy; and the more means any have enjoyed, the greater shall their condemnation be. *Chorazin* and *Bethsaida*, being upon this ground pronounced by our Saviour to be in a worse condition than *Tyre* and *Sidon*. As in matter of *grace*, God does not weigh it by the *Scales*, but try it by the *touchstone*; not so much regarding the *number*

Mat. 11. 21, 22.

ber as the *truth* of *duties*. So it is likewise for *sins*; a *lesser* sin against *light* and *love*, does more provoke him, then a much *greater* with *reluctancy*; or from *surprisal*.

Transgressions against the first Table, are worse than those against the second. *If one man sin against another, the Judg shall judg him: But if a man sin against the Lord, who shall entreat for him?* and for this reason the first Table is called, *The great Commandment*. 1 Sam. 2. 25. Matt. 22. 38.

Neglect of a *principal* duty of the first or second Table, is a greater sin than the neglect or omission of that which is *circumstantial* or *ceremonial*: *Obedience* and *Mercy* being better then *Sacrifice*. 1 Sam. 15. 22.

Sins against the clear light of *nature* or *reason*, are in many respects worse then those that are discovered to us by the *written Word*. The more obligations are broken, the greater still is the sin; as when our offence is not only against the Word of God, but likewise against the Law of Nature, Conscience, particular Promises and Vows.

2. By *Examining* the latitude and comprehensiveness of any kind of sin; though it may more especially refer to the breach of some one Commandment, yet if we search into its utmost compass and extent, we shall find that it does also refer unto divers others. So the sins of the second Table do not only intrench upon one another, but also upon those of the first Table, by reason of that disobedience which is in them unto the Command of God.

2. By *distinguishing* the *degrees* of sin, the first *consent* being not so bad as the *act*, nor the *act* so bad as the *Custom* and delight. A particular offence being not so bad as an *habitual reigning* sin that wasts the Conscience.

Particular sins.

3. That which does more especially concern us in our Confessions, is the aggravation of *particular sins*. Because a *general* view of them is more apt to produce a confused stupor and amazement, rather than any proper and genuine humiliation. Every man hath some *black days* in his Calendar; some more *notorious sins* whereof he hath been guilty. He should in his private humiliation endeavour to call those to fresh remembrance, *and set them before him.* Not forgetting that horror and dread which appeared to him when God did first discover them to his Conscience. And therefore it will concern us to labour after a more distinct discovery of the hainousness of our particular offences, which will best appear by examining them according to their divers *Circumstances.*

Psal. 51. 3.

Quis, ubi, quid, quibus auxiliis, cur, quomodo, quando.

Now the *Circumstances* of actions are usually reckoned to be these seven: 1. The *Person.* 2. The *Place.* 3. The *Thing.* 4. The *Means.* 5. The *End.* 6. The *Manner.* 7. The *Time.*

1. The Person.

1. The *Person* is considerable under a two-fold capacity, either for the Person { Offended. Offending.

1. The *Person* offended, the Creator and Governour of the world, so eminent for his *Greatness* and Majesty; which does add much to the offence: An ill word against the *King*, being high

high Treaſon; whereas the greateſt offence againſt another, is not ſo much. So that it may be very helpful to ſet forth the hainouſneſs of any ſin, to conſider who it is that is offended by it. Not only our *Brethren*, Superiors, Equals, Inferiors, or *our ſelves*, but the *great God*, who is able with a blaſt of his mouth, with a frown of his countenance, to ruine us eternally, and caſt us into hell: and it muſt needs argue extream folly for men to *contend with their Maker*, to provoke him to jealouſie, as if they were ſtronger than He. 1 Cor. 10. 22.

So infinite in *Holineſs* and *Knowledg*; of *pure* and *piercing Eyes*; abhorring ſin infinitely, and yet neceſſarily beholding it. Though men may ſtop their ears, or ſhut their eyes againſt what they diſlike, yet God cannot go out of the hearing or ſeeing of ſin. He hears every one of our vain and ſinful words. He ſees into the ſecret corners of our hearts, the leaſt glimpſe of any ſinful contrivement, which we our ſelves can ſcarce take notice of; and ſhould we *provoke the eyes of his Glory?*

So terrible in his *Juſtice* and *Majeſty*, who ſhall one day come with thouſands of his glorious Angels, in flaming fire, to render vengeance upon all thoſe that know him not, or obey him not. Iſa. 3. 8.

So *Merciful* and *Gracious* unto us: The Lord our Redeemer, the holy One of *Iſrael* our King: *Our Father who hath loved us, and hath given us everlaſting conſolation, and good hope through Grace.* And ſhall we *return evil for good, and hatred* 2 Theſ. 2. 16. Pſa. 109. 5

Deu. 32. 6 *tred for his good will? Shall we thus requite the Lord? Is not he our Father that bought us? Hath he not made us, and established us?*

2. The Person *offending*; a frail creature, of a dependant being; preferred out of nothing, to the noble condition of the human nature. One that hath taken upon him the Profession of Religion, engaged himself to the duties of Christianity by a solemn Vow in Baptism, participated the means of Grace in a greater measure than others, and hath had so much experience of Gods more especial favour towards him. One who is

Rom. 2. 17, 18. *called a Christian, and rests in the Gospel, and makes his boast of Christ, and knows his will, and approves the things that are more excellent*, &c.

2. The Place.

2. The *Place*; where we have enjoyed the liberty and sun-shine of the Gospel; *In the land of uprightness dealing unjustly.* In that very place which hath so much abounded with temporal and spiritual blessings, *flowing with milk and honey*; and that which is more nourishing and pleasant to the *soul*, then either of these to the *body*, The Word and Ordinances of God in sincerity and power. 'Tis recorded of the Israelites, *Psal.* 106. 7. *That they provoked God at the sea, even at the Red sea*; which is repeated with an *Emphasis*, as being the place of mercy where they had lately seen so miraculous a deliverance; which circumstance did add a great aggravation to their rebellion.

Isa. 26. 10

3. The Thing.

3. The *Thing*; that which we have so often relapsed into, against which we have so frequently resolved, being in it self (it may be) of a more foul

foul and ſcandalous nature, *&c.* Hitherto do belong the aggravations which concern the *kinds* of ſin which were mentioned before.

4. The *Means*; with hypocritical pretences, making Religion the veil for our unlawful deſires, fighting againſt God with thoſe abilities with which we ſhould ſerve him. Abuſing that health, wealth, ſtrength, wit, and all the other Talents we have received; not only neglecting to improve them unto the glory of the Giver, but waſtfully laviſhing of them, ſo that we can not with the fooliſh ſervant, give God his own again; uſing them as weapons againſt him, thereby reſiſting his Spirit and Ordinances. 4. The Means.

5. The *End*; for lying vanities, the ſhort pleaſures of ſin, which are not without ſome mixture of ſorrow, in the very enjoyment of them, and do afterwards fill the ſoul with guilt and fear. *Forſaking the fountain of living waters, and hewing out unto our ſelves broken Ciſterns that will hold no water. Spending our money for that which is not bread, and our labour for that which ſatisfieth not:* Proſecuting thoſe things *whereof we might be aſhamed; the end of which will be death.* 5 The End. Jer. 2. 13. Iſa. 55. 2. Ro. 6. 21.

6. The *Manner how*; which is capable of much amplification, it being a great addition to the hainouſneſs of any ſin, when it is committed, either 6. The Manner.

Out of *ignorance*, when we have had means of being better informed; Out of *impudence*, againſt the dictates of Nature, the light of Reaſon and Education; ſome taſte and reliſh of Spiritual things; the checks of Conſcience; former promiſes Heb. 10. 16.

miſes and reſolutions. After much *conſideration* and debate with our own hearts. Againſt our own *experience* and obſervation of many Judgments that have been inflicted upon ſuch a ſin. Againſt many *examples*, much *patience*, the means of *remedy*; in which reſpects the ſins of men are much worſe than thoſe of the Devil; for he never ſinned againſt *example*, being the firſt offender, nor againſt *patience*, being immediately upon the firſt offence caſt into hell; nor againſt *remedy*, there being no poſſible means allowed him for his recovery. Out of *baſe ingratitude*, againſt the frequent and favourable motions of the bleſſed Spirit. *Deſpiſing the riches of*
Rom. 2. 4 *Gods goodneſs, and forbearance, and long-ſuffering,*
2 Pet. 2. *whereby we ſhould have been led to repentance.* After frequent *relapſes*, which do multiply the guilt of ſin; like the increaſe of figures, though the firſt fault be but as one, yet the ſecond relapſe makes it as ten, the third as an hundred, the next as a thouſand, and ſo on, according to this multiplied proportion. Out of *preſumption* and foreſtalling of pardon, making the mercy of God to lead us unto ſin. Out of much *obduratene-*
Pſ. 50. 17. *ſs and pertinacy*; *caſting his Laws behind our*
Iſa. 5. 18. *backs, and hating to be reformed. Drawing iniquity with cords of vanity, and ſin as it were with*
Rom. 2. 5. *Cart-ropes. Treaſuring up wrath againſt the day of*
Iſa. 43. 24 *wrath*; as if we would *weary* God with our iniquities, with much *forwardneſs* and *conſtancy*, notwithſtanding the great trouble and difficulty there hath been in the ſervice of ſin; without any, or with very ſmall temptation, with much *cheerfulneſs*

fulneſs and delight, as if there had been pleaſure in deſtruction; with much *eagerneſs* and deſire, *drinking iniquity like water*, *working all uncleanneſs with greedineſs*; *with an high hand*, as if we would *reproach the Lord, refuſing to return unto him*; with *mad impudence*, *provoking God to his face*, *as if we were ſtronger then He*. Joh. 15. 16 Eph. 4. 19 Numb. 15 30. Jer. 6. 3: Iſa. 65. 3: 1 Cor. 10. 22.

7. The *Time* when: Not only in our *Childhood*, but in our *Manhood*; not only when we ſat in darkneſs, in the days of our unregeneracy, but ſince he hath called us into his marvellous light, ſince the glorious Goſpel hath ſhined into our hearts, having (perhaps) but lately ſuffered under ſuch an affliction, and received ſuch a ſpecial deliverance, upon which we did renew our Covenant with God by freſh reſolutions of ſtrict and circumſpect walking. 7. The Time.

Each of theſe Circumſtances may be otherwiſe more largely amplified, according to the ſeveral natures of thoſe ſins to which they are applied in our confeſſions; but by that which hath been already ſaid, it may ſufficiently appear how the diſtinct underſtanding and conſideration of them may be very uſeful in this buſineſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Of our acknowledging the Puniſhments that are due to Sin.

WHen we have thus acknowledged our ſins by an *Enumeration* and *Aggravation* of them; we are in the next place to own the *puniſhments* that are due unto them, thereby the better to affect us with ſorrow and indignation at thoſe evil courſes, which will expoſe us to ſo many fearful dangers. That thus *remembring our doings which were not good, we may loath our ſelves for our abominations:* Acknowledging that we are *not worthy the leaſt of his mercies, or truth, that He hath ſhewed unto us*; Deſiring to *abhor our ſelves, and repent in duſt and aſhes.*

Ezek. 36. 31. Gen. 32. 10. Job 42. 6.

Thus the Prodigal in his ſubmiſſion to his father, firſt he acknowledges his *offence, I have ſinned againſt heaven, and againſt thee*; and then he owns the *puniſhment, And am no more worthy to be called thy ſon.* There being a natural conſequence betwixt theſe two. *For if God ſpared not the Angels that ſinned, but delivered them into chains of darkneſs to be reſerved unto judgment; if He ſpared not the old world, but brought a flood upon them; if the Cities of* Sodom *and* Gomorrah *were turned into aſhes, being condemned unto a dreadful overthrow, that they might be examples to thoſe that after ſhould live ungodly: if God ſpared not the natural branches,* but cut them off for their diſobedience

Luk. 15. 18, 19. 2 Pet. 2. 4, 5, 6. Rom. 11. 21.

dience and unbelief, we may certainly then conclude, that though *ſentence againſt other evil works be not executed ſpeedily*, yet they ſhall not go unpuniſhed; *But evil ſhall hunt the wicked perſon to overthrow him.* And therefore, beſides the confeſſion of our ſins, it is alſo requiſite that we own and acknowledg the *puniſhments* that are due unto us for them. Eccl. 8.11 Pſ. 140.11

Now theſe puniſhments are either { External / Internal / Eternal.

1. The *External* are thoſe that concern the outward man; either in Body, Friends, Name, Eſtate. 1 *External*

1. In our *Bodies*: 'Twere but Juſtice, if God ſhould deprive us of our health; if he ſhould *ſmite us with a Conſumption and a Fever, with an inflamation, and an extream burning; with the botch of* Egypt, *with the Emrods, and with the Leproſie, whereof we cannot be cured*; if he ſhould ſend upon us *ſore ſickneſſes, and of long continuance*; if he ſhould ſuffer us, with *Job*, to be ſo wholly overſpread with ſores, that we ſhould *become loathſome to our own ſelves*. That we ſhould *chuſe ſtrangling and death rather than life*. *Bodies.* Deut. 28. 21. Verſe 27. Verſe 59. Job 7. 5. Verſe 15.

It were but juſtice if he ſhould ſtrike us blind, or deaf, or lame; if he ſhould take from us thoſe Senſes by which we have ſo much diſhonoured and provoked him; if he ſhould deprive us of thoſe Limbs and Members which we have uſed as inſtruments of ſin, and weapons of unrighteouſneſs.

2. In reſpect of our *Friends*: We might juſtly *Friends.*

expect

expect that God ſhould caſt us into a forlorn, deſtitute condition, when there ſhould be none to relieve or pity us. He might take us from the help and comfort of our Friends, either turning their hearts againſt us, or depriving us of them by death.

Names. 3. In regard of our *Names* and Credit: He might give us over to thoſe notorious, ſcandalous cenſures, by which we ſhould be made aſhamed to live, and afraid to dye. He might juſtly make us *an aſtoniſhment, and a proverb, and a by-word amongſt all Nations: To be laughed to ſcorn*, and had in deriſion of them that are round about us. He might *blot out our names from under Heaven.*

Deut. 28. 37. Pſal. 44. 13, 14. Deut. 29. 20.

Eſtates. 4 For our *Eſtates*, if God ſhould *lay judgment to the line, and righteouſneſs to the plummet*, he might number every one of us to the ſword, and to captivity, and to ruine: Depriving us of our *liberty, peace, plenty.* It were but juſtice if he ſhould ſuffer us to be ſhut up in ſome priſon or dungeon, where we could not *enjoy* the mercies that we *poſſeſs.* If he ſhould lead us into captivity, ſell us into ſome cruel ſlavery and bondage: *Scatter us abroad among all the Kingdoms of the earth*, cauſing us to *wander about in ſheep-skins and goat-skins, being deſtitute, afflicted, tormented:* Being diſperſed in the *deſerts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

Iſa. 28. 7. *Liberty.* Deut. 18. 25 Heb. 11. 37 Verſe 38.

Peace. If he ſhould take from us that *Peace*, quietneſs, comfort, which we have formerly enjoyed, filling us with confuſion and trouble, giving us over to the rage and malice of our enemies: *Cauſing the Sun to go down at noon, and darkning the earth*

Amos 8. 9

earth in the clear day; surprising us with sad confusions, when we think our selves most secure and happy. *Turning our feasts into mourning, and our songs into lamentation; bringing sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head*; making us *to eat our bread with carefulness, and to drink our water with astonishment.* Ver. 10. Ezek. 12. 19

If he should deny us his Creatures when we want them, take them from us when we have them, withhold his blessing from attending them, debar us from the comfortable enjoyment of them; sending upon us *cleanness of teeth, the evil arrows of famine, breaking the staff of our bread, taking away our corn in the time thereof; making the heaven over us to be brass, and the earth under us to be iron:* If he should rain fire and brimstone down upon us; if he should afflict us with *hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, and the want of all things*; if he should send a *rust and canker* upon our estates, making *an hole in the bottom of our bags*, by which our gains should insensibly drop away, and slip from us; if he should *curse us in the city, and in the field, in our basket, and in our store; in the fruit of our land, and the encrease of our cattel; in all our endeavours, and the works of our hands; feeding us with the bread of affliction, and with the water of affliction:* Giving us to drink *the cup of trembling, and the dregs of the cup of his fury: Stretching out upon us the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness:* If he should make *the portion of our cup to be snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest.* *Plenty.* Amos 4. 6. Ezek. 5. 16. Hos. 2. 9. Deut. 28. 23. Verse 48. Jam. 5. 3. Hag. 1. 6. Deut. 28. 16, 17, 18. 1 Kin. 22. 27. Isa. 51. 22. Isa. 34. 11 Psal. 11. 6

2. *Internal* punishments are those that con- 2. *Internal*

cern the ſoul and inward man, either in reſpect of Bleſſings { Natural, / Spiritual:

It were but Juſtice if God ſhould take from us our wits, reaſons, memories; if he ſhould *ſmite us with madneſs and aſtoniſhment of heart:* Giving us the *hearts of beaſts*, making us become raving and deſperate, or ſtupid and bruitiſh: if he ſhould deprive us of our inward peace and quietneſs, giving us a *trembling heart, and ſorrow of mind: Scaring us with dreams, and terrifying us with viſions:* Making our guilty Conſciences to flye in our faces; to gnaw upon the ſoul with fierce and reſtleſs accuſations, to fill the thoughts with terrors and amazement.

Deut. 28. 28. Dan. 4. 16. Deut. 28. 65. Job 7. 14.

It were but Juſtice if he ſhould deprive us of all his holy Ordinances; ſending upon us a *famine of the Word: Removing our Teachers into corners, ſo that our eyes cannot ſee them; making the night to come upon us, wherein we ſhould not have a viſion; that it ſhould be dark unto us, that we cannot divine; that the Sun ſhould go down over our Prophets, and the day be dark upon them; that the Seers ſhould be aſhamed, and the Diviners confounded, all of them covering their lips, becauſe there is no anſwer from God.*

Am. 8. 11. Iſa. 3. 10. Mic. 3. 6, 7

If he ſhould reject all our holy ſervices, hide himſelf from us when we ſeek his face, ſtopping his ears when we cry unto him; *laughing at our calamities, and mocking when our fear cometh*; if he ſhould fling our Prayers back into our faces with a curſe inſtead of a bleſſing; if he ſhould

Prov. 1. 26.

take

take our confeſſions as an evidence againſt our ſelves, and condemn us out of our own mouths.

If he ſhould ſubſtract the means of grace, and not any longer continue the proffers of mercy to thoſe who have ſo much undervalued and abuſed them: If he ſhould cauſe his grieved Spirit to retire from us, and finally give us over to our own deſperate hardneſs and impenitency, to *vile affections*, to a *ſeared Conſcience*, and a *reprobate ſenſe*, whereby we might be continued in our evil courſes, till the day of his vengeance.

3. *Eternal* puniſhments are ſuch as concern our immortal condition after this life: They are either of { Loſs. / Pain. } 3 *Eternal.*

1. The puniſhment of *Loſs* does conſiſt in being for ever baniſhed from the bleſſed preſence of God, and the joys of Heaven. In being *puniſhed with everlaſting deſtruction, from the preſence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.* 2 Theſ. 1. 9

2. The pain of *Senſe* does conſiſt in thoſe moſt exquiſite and unexpreſſible torments which ſhall be inflicted on the damned, ſet forth in Scripture by *everlaſting fire*, *utter darkneſs*, *the worm that dyes not, and the fire that is not quenched: Chains of darkneſs*; *the blackneſs of darkneſs for ever: The Lake of fire burning with brimſtone.* Matt. 15. 41. 22, 23 Mar. 9. 40 2 Pet. 2. 4 Jude 13. Rev 19. 20.

It were but Juſtice if God ſhould *cut us off with ſwift deſtruction*, ſnatching us out of the land of the living, with our ſins and fears upon us, and caſt us into thoſe regions of darkneſs, thoſe 2 Pet. 2. 1

black and cruel habitations, where there is nothing but weeping and gnaſhing of teeth.

2 Theſ. 1. 8 Rev. 14. 10. If he ſhould take *vengeance upon us in flaming fire*; making us to drink *the wine of his wrath, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation: Tormenting us with fire and brimſtone in the preſence of his holy Angels.*

Should God deal with us according to our deſerts, it would have been much better for us that we had never been born. He might juſtly inflict upon us all the Plagues of this life, and eternal torments in the life to come. There is nothing could remain for us to expect, *but a certain fearful looking for of Judgment*, and *fiery indignation to devour us.*

It were eaſie to amplifie each of theſe heads, from thoſe many curſes and judgments denounced in Scripture, which are all of them applicable to this purpoſe, as being the deſert of ſin.

The ſerious conſideration and application of theſe things, will very much conduce to the exciting of ſuch affections in us, as do become the duty of confeſſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Of the proper Materials for a Tranſition, whereby Confeſſion and Petition may be annexed.

THus much briefly concerning the *Matter* and *Method* to be obſerved in our *Confeſſion.*

That which ſhould ſucceed next unto it, is *Petition.* But for the better connexion of theſe two, 'tis requiſite that they be joyned together by ſome fitting *Tranſition.* The moſt natural materials for which, may be referred unto ſome of theſe heads.

1. A profeſſion of our ſhame and ſorrow in the conſideration of our many ſins, and the puniſhments due unto them. A readineſs *to loath our ſelves for our abominations.* To judg and condemn our ſelves, that we may not be condemned of the Lord. A willingneſs *to ſet our ſins ever before us*; as conſidering, that though the *acts* of them be paſt, yet the *guilt*, and the danger may be preſent, and that there may be many now in Hell, who have not been ſo great ſinners as we. Of this kind is that ſpeech of Ezra, *O my God, I am aſhamed, and bluſh to lift up my face to thee.* And *Job*; *I abhor my ſelf, and repent in duſt and aſhes.* And *Daniel*; *O Lord, to us belongeth confuſion of face, becauſe we have ſinned againſt thee.* Ezek. 36. 31. Ezra 9. 6. Job 42. 6. Dan. 9. 8.

2. An expression of our desire to flie utterly out of our selves, to renounce all our own righ-
Job 9. 2, 3 teousness; *How should man be just with God? if he should contend with us, we could not answer for one*
Psal. 130. *of a thousand. If thou shouldst be extream to mark*
3, 4. *what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? but*
Psa. 103. 4 *there is mercy and forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared; thou knowest our frame, and considerest that we are but dust*; frail, infirm creatures, and therefore thou dost not expect perfection from us; if we could have no sin, we should have no need of a Redeemer; we are of our selves
Isa. 64. 6. altogether impotent, and *unclean, and our righteousness as filthy rags.*

Neh. 9. 38 3. A promise of amendment for the future:
Chap. 10. Renewing our Covenant with God by fresh re-
Verse 29 solutions of a strict and holy conversation: Professing our desire to fear his Name, and to be engaged to him by an *everlasting Covenant*, never to
Psa. 119. 5 depart from him again; *O that my ways were so directed, that I might keep thy Commandments* always! O that thou wouldst enable us *to repent and be converted, that our sins may be blotted out,*
Acts 3. 19 *when the times of refreshing shall come!* It is the desire of our souls to walk more holily and humbly before thee for the future; to keep a stricter watch over our own hearts and ways.

4. A brief application unto our selves of such mercies and promises as belong to those that believe and repent. Though we have not expressed the dutiful affections of *children*, yet God cannot renounce the tender compassions of a *Father*; and if *earthly* Parents can give good things

to

to their children, will not He be much more ready to be gracious to his? *With the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.* And, *we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins.* He hath promised to hear and grant the requests that are put up in faith; that he will have respect to those of an humble and contrite heart; that those who do not hide their sins, but confess and forsake them, shall find mercy: That *he delighteth not in the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live:* That *the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart he will not despise. And now, O Lord, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised such mercies unto thy servants; therefore now let it be unto us according to thy word.* We desire to lay hold on that word of promise, that thou *wilt heal our back-slidings, and love us freely:* That thou wilt not *turn away from us, to do us good; but wilt put thy fear into our hearts, that we shall not depart from thee. O think upon thy servants, as concerning this word of thine, wherein thou hast caused us to put our trust! Truly our hope is even in thee.* 'Tis the desire of our souls to seek after thee, and to come unto thee, *and thou never failest them that seek thee.* Of those *that come unto thee, thou puttest away none.* O be pleased to *establish this word of thine unto thy servants, and let them not be disappointed of their hope.*

Psa. 130.7 — 1 Joh. 2.1 — Ezek. 33.11 — Psa 51.17 — 2 Sam. 7. 28 — Hos. 14.4. — Jer. 32 40 — Psal. 119. 49 — Psa. 9. 10 — Joh. 6. 37

Though *the wages of sin be death*, yet this is our comfort, that *the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Scripture is very copious in other pertinent expressions for each of these heads, and to some of these the most proper matter for *Transition* is reducible.

CHAP. XVI.

Concerning Deprecation of Evil; with several Arguments to back our Requests of this nature.

THE chief heads of matter for *Petition*, are summarily comprehended in the Lords Prayer, as hath been shewed before. Chap. 5.

All Petition is either for { Our selves, { Deprecation. / Comprecation, } Others. Intercession.

In petitioning for our selves, the first thing to be explained, is *Deprecation*, which concerns the *prevention*, or *removal*, or *lessening* of *evil*.

1. Sin. The first evil to be prayed against, is that of *Sin*; and therein we should deprecate both the { Guilt. / Power.

1. The guilt of sin. 1. The *Guilt* of sin is that imputation whereby we are obliged to the wrath of God, and all the curses of the Law; and therefore we have great need to pray that he would *forgive us our debts*; Isa. 44. 22 That he would *blot out our transgressions as a Cloud*,

Cloud: That he would *open unto us the fountain for sin, and for uncleanneſs:* That he would have compaſſion upon us, *ſubduing our iniquities, and caſting our ſins into the depths of the Sea:* That we may be *juſtified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jeſus Chriſt:* That he would *cleanſe us from all filthineſs both of fleſh and ſpirit:* That he would *blot out the hand-writing that is againſt us, and take it out of the way, nailing it to the Croſs of Chriſt.* Zac. 13.1. Mic. 7.19. Rom. 3. 24. 2 Cor. 7.1 Col. 2.14.

Of this kind we have ſundry *Deprecations* in Scripture; So *David, Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies, and thy loving-kindneſſes, for they have been ever of old. Remember not the ſins of my youth, nor my tranſgreſſions: for thy Names ſake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great.* Pſ. 25. 6,7 Verſe 11.

Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my ſoul, for I have ſinned againſt thee. Pſal. 41. 4

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindneſs, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my tranſgreſſions, waſh me throughly from mine iniquities, and cleanſe me from my ſin. Purge me with Hyſop, and I ſhall be clean; waſh me, and I ſhall be whiter then ſnow. Hide thy face from my ſins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Pſ. 51. 1,2 Verſe 7. Verſe 9.

O remember not againſt us our former iniquities; help us, O God of our ſalvation, for the glory of thy Name. Deliver us, and purge away our ſins for thy Names ſake. Pſal. 79. 8,9

Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou uſeſt to do unto thoſe that love thy Name. Pſal. 119. 132

Take away all our iniquities, and receive us graciouſly. Hoſ. 14. 2.

Heal

Verſe 4. *Heal our backſlidings, and love us freely.*

Now becauſe this is one of the chief wants, againſt which we ſhould petition; therefore we ſhould endeavour to back our requeſts in this kind, with ſuch *Arguments* as may ſerve to ſtir up our *fervency*, and ſtrengthen our *faith* in this deſire.

1. From the *Mercy* of God, who deſires not the
Ezek. 18. death of a ſinner, but at what time ſoever he ſhal
21,22 truly repent, hath promiſed to forgive him. He hath commanded us to ask *daily pardon*, as well as *daily bread*; ſhewing thereby, that as the beſt man ſhall continually need pardon, ſo he is more ready to give it, than we are to ask it. He has entreated us to be reconciled unto him. He does invite and call us when we are impenitent, and therfore he will be much more ready to embrace and accept of us, when we deſire with repentance to return unto him. He would not have us
Prov. 3. 8. ſend our neighbor away empty, when that which he would borrow, is with us. How much more then ſhal he who is the *Father of mercies*, in reſpect of whom all the compaſſion in man is not ſo much as a drop to the Ocean? How much more ſhall he accept and grant the deſires of his chil-
Pſa. 130. 7 dren? for, *with the Lord there is mercy, and with him*
Exo. 23. 5. *there is plenteous redemption*: he hath enjoin'd us to help our Enemy's Ox or Aſs when they are in
1 Cor. 9. 9 danger. And *doth God take care for Oxen?* Hath he not a far greater eſteem of his own Image in man? Will he not much rather extend his bounty and goodneſs unto ſuch as are oppreſſed under the burthen of their ſin? Though no ſin be

little

little in it ſelf; yet the greateſt ſin is but *little* in compariſon to his mercy. The *more* our offences have been, the more may he glorifie himſelf in the pardon of them.

2. From the *Merits of Chriſt*, who is *the propitiation for the ſins of the whole world. He came to ſave that which was loſt:* To *quicken thoſe that were dead in treſpaſſes and ſins. To this end was he born, and for this end came he into the world, that he might ſave ſinners. He was wounded for our tranſgreſſions, he was bruiſed for our iniquities, the chaſtiſement of our peace was upon him, that with his ſtripes we might be healed.* He hath ſatisfied for us as our Surety, and hath ſuffered the puniſhments that were due unto our ſins; and it cannot ſtand with the Juſtice of God, to require a debt twice over, to puniſh them again in us, when he hath already puniſhed them in Chriſt. 1 Joh. 2. 2 Matt. 18. 11. Eph. 2. 1. Joh. 18. 37 Iſa. 53. 5.

3. From our own *Frailties. What is man, that he ſhould be clean; and he that is born of a woman, that he ſhould be righteous? God will pity thoſe that fear him, becauſe he knows their frame, he conſiders that they are but duſt.* He remembers that they are but fleſh, and *no fleſh can be righteous in his ſight. Before him no man living can be juſtified.* The greatneſs and the ſenſe of our unworthineſs, does make us the fitter objects for his mercy. *The whole have no need of the Phyſician, but the ſick.* Job 15. 14 Pſal. 103. 14. Pſ. 78. 39. Pſ. 143. 2. Mat. 9. 12

And as we are to pray for the *pardon* of our ſins, againſt the *guilt* of them; ſo likewiſe for the ſenſe and *evidence* of this *pardon*, againſt our own *doubts, that being juſtified by faith, we may have peace with God through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; that we Rom. 5. 1.

Eph. 1.13 we may be *ſealed with the holy Spirit of promiſe,*
14. *which is the earneſt of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchaſed poſſeſſion*; of this kind are thoſe Petitions of *David.*

Pſal. 35.3 *Say unto my ſoul, I am thy ſalvation.*
Pſa. 51.12 *Reſtore unto me the joy of thy ſalvation, and eſtabliſh me with thy free ſpirit.*

Pſal. 4.6. *Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.*

Pſ. 90.14. *O ſatisfie us early with thy mercies, that we may be glad and rejoyce all our days.*

Pſal. 119. *Make thy face to ſhine upon thy ſervant, and*
135. *teach me thy ſtatutes.*

The reaſons to back this requeſt, may be,

1. From the *juſtice* of it; we do but aſk an acquittance where the debt is paid, Chriſt having already ſatisfied for our ſins.) *And ſhall not the*
Gen. 18. *Judg of all the earth do right?* He hath promiſed
25 to be found of thoſe that do not ſeek him; and to ſeek after thoſe that go aſtray from him; and will he not much rather accept, and be favourable to ſuch as deſire to ſeek after him, and to wait upon him in the obſervation of his own Ordinances? He hath ſaid, that we ſhall not
Iſa. 45.19. *ſeek his face in vain.*

2. From the *facility* of it; 'tis but ſaying the word only, and we ſhall be whole; if we could relieve all thoſe that beg of us, with meer words, there is none ſhould aſk without ſucceſs. But now with God, 'tis all one to do a thing, as to ſpeak it. 'Tis but *ſpeaking peace* to our ſouls, and
Pſal. 85.8. we ſhall have it. *Behold, thou art the Lord, the God*
Jer. 32.27 *of all fleſh, there is nothing too hard for thee.*

2. Next

2. Next to the *Guilt* of ſins, we ſhould pray againſt the *Power* of them, that we may not relapſe into them again for the future, that ſin may *not reign in our mortal bodies:* That we may not be *brought into captivity unto the law of ſin, which is in our members:* That God would *redeem us from all our iniquities*, and with *the blood of Chriſt purge our Conſciences from dead works to ſerve the living God:* That he would enable us to *put off, concerning our former converſation, the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful luſts; to crucifie the fleſh with the affections and luſts of it:* That we may have *no fellowſhip with the unfruitful works of darkneſs:* That *our hearts may not be hardned through the deceitfulneſs of ſin:* That we may not *walk according to the courſe of the world, fulfilling the deſires of the fleſh:* That he would *caſt down every imagination and high thought that exalteth it ſelf againſt the knowledg of God, and bring into captivity every thought unto the obedience of Chriſt.* 2. The power of ſin. Rom.6.12 Verſe 23. Tit.2.12. Heb.9.14 Eph.4.22 Gal.5.24. Eph.5.11. Heb.3.13. Eph. 2.2, 3 2 Cor. 10 5

Of this kind is that Petition of *David*, *Keep back thy ſervant from preſumptuous ſins; let them not have dominion over me. Order my ſteps in thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.* Pſal. 19. 13 Pſal. 119. 133

'Tis not here neceſſary to make any large recital of the kinds of ſins, mentioned before in confeſſion; but to inſiſt more fully and particularly on ſuch to which we are more eſpecially inclined, that they may be mortified and ſubdued.

The Arguments to ſtrengthen our faith and fervency in this deſire, may be ſuch as theſe.

1. From the *fitneſs* of it in reſpect of his glory; it

it is not for his honour that his *servants* should be under the yoke of his *Enemies*.

2. For our own *Impotency* for it; evil being always present with us, and sin so easily besetting us. And of our selves we are no more able to lay aside these weights, and to cast off our sins, then an *Ethiopian* is to cast off his blackness, or a *Leopard* his spots.

3. From the *Facility* of it to God; he is stronger than the strong man, and can *subdue all things to himself*. Phil. 3. 21

4. From his *Promise* and *Covenant*, whereby he hath engaged himself *to subdue our iniquities*, and to keep us from departing from him. Mic. 7. 19

2. Temptation. 2. Another evil to be prayed against, is *Temptation*, according to that in the Lords Prayer, *Lead us not into temptation*; That we may be freed from *Trials* themselves, so far as may stand with Gods good pleasure; especially *the evil* of them, that we may not be overcome by them, nor faint under them.

Temptation is of three kinds:

1. From our own corrupted natures, by which we are very apt to be *drawn aside*, *and enticed* to all manner of sins; there being no kind of impiety, but what this does make us *capable* of, and will (without Gods restraining or renewing Grace) at some time or other *dispose* us unto. And herein, more particularly, the blindness of our understandings, our wicked imaginations, and fleshly reasonings, the perverseness of our wills, the hardness and earthiness of our affections, the insensibleness of our consciences, Jam. 1. 14.

the

the depravation of all our faculties.

2. The malice and subtilty of the Devil, who *as a roaring Lion walks about seeking whom he may devour*; and is still provoking us to those evils which are most suitable to our particular occasions and dispositions: *Watching for advantage against us*, desiring *to sift and winnow us as wheat*: and therefore we had need to pray that we may be *sober and vigilant*, having upon us *the whole armour of God, whereby we may withstand the wiles of the Devil*; that we may constantly *resist him, being stedfast in the faith*; taking heed of the *depths of Satan*. That we do *not fall into reproach*, *and the snare of the Devil*. That *the God of Peace would bruise Satan under our feet*. 1 Pet. 5. 8. 2 Cor. 2. 11 Luke 22. 31. Matt. 26. 41. Eph. 6. 11 1 Pet. 5. 8. Rev. 2. 24 1 Tim. 3. 7 Rom. 16. 20.

3. The allurements or terrors of the world, either by profits, pleasures, honours, on the one hand; or losses, dangers, troubles, disgrace, persecution on the other. *The rain descending, the floods coming, the winds blowing, and beating upon us.* The evil customs and examples of the generation wherein we live, the slavish hopes and fears of men. Mat. 7. 27.

Besides these *kinds* of temptation, we are likewise to pray against the *degrees* of it, suggestions, consent, practise, delight, habitual custom, and necessity. Jam. 1. 14.

That God would enable us always *to watch and pray, lest we fall into temptation.* Ma. 26. 41

And because every man hath some particular sin or temptation to which he is more especially exposed, belonging either to his age, temperament; therefore he should endeavour to observe,

obſerve and find out, and more fully to enlarge himſelf in his deprecation againſt that.

3. Puniſhment. 5. The laſt ſort of evil to be prayed againſt, is that of *Puniſhment*. The kinds of which were mentioned before under the head of *Confeſſion:* and are likewiſe reducible under that other head concerning *Protection*; and therefore it will be needleſs here to make any particular recital of them.

In the *general*, we are to pray againſt all thoſe Judgments which may be inflicted upon us either in our bodies, friends, names, eſtates. Againſt thoſe more eminent miſeries of *Sword*, *Famine*, *Peſtilence*, (which three being of a publick nature, concerning the Nation and Community in which we live, may be more particularly inſiſted upon under the head of *Interceſſion*) againſt diſtraction and ſorrow of mind, trouble of conſcience, the loſs of Gods holy Ordinances, and Eternal damnation.

Pſa 91.10 *That no evil may befall us, neither any Plague come nigh our dwellings.*

Pſal 6. 1. *That he would not rebuke us in his anger, neither chaſten us in his diſpleaſure.*

Pſa. 51.11 *That he would not caſt us away from his preſence, nor take his holy ſpirit from us.*

Thoſe Judgments ought to be more particularly deprecated, with which we are at any time frighted or afflicted.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Of Comprecation for ſpiritual good things: The ſanctification of our Natures, the obedience of our Lives.

NExt to *Deprecation* againſt *evil*, may ſucceed *Comprecation* for that which is *good*.

Now becauſe good things may be wanting, either in *whole*, or in *part*, or in reſpect of *Duration*, and ſome intermiſſions; therefore we ſhould petition not only for the things themſelves, but alſo for the encreaſe and continuance of them.

Good is either { Spiritual. / Temporal.

1. The ſanctification of our natures.

In asking of ſpiritual good things, the firſt and chief matter to be prayed for, is the ſanctification of our natures; That *Gods Kingdom may come* into our hearts, that he would *give unto us a new heart, and put a new ſpirit within us*: That he would *take from us our ſtony heart, and beſtow upon us hearts of fleſh*: That he would put within us *the law of the ſpirit of life, which may make us free from the law of ſin and death*: That we may *put on the new man, which after God is created in righteouſneſs and true holineſs*: That we may be regenerate, and become new creatures, being *born again of that incorruptible ſeed, the Word of God*. Ezek. 36. 26. Rom. 8. 7. Eph. 4. 24 1 Pet. 1 23

That God would grant us, according to the riches Eph. 3. 16

of his glory, to be ſtrengthned with might by his Spirit in the inward man.

1 Theſ. 3. 13. That he would *eſtabliſh our hearts unblamable in holineſs before God, even our Father, at the coming of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt with all his Saints.*

Ro. 8.11. *That the Spirit of Chriſt may dwell in us.*

Acts 13. 43. That we may *continue in the grace of God, and*

Col. 1. 13. *in the faith, grounded and ſetled; and may not be moved away from the hope of the Goſpel.*

Of this kind is that Petition of *David* for him-

Pſa. 51. 10 ſelf, *Create in me a clean heart, O Lord; and renew a right ſpirit within me.* And the Apoſtle for

1 Theſ. 5. 23. others; *The God of Peace ſanctifie you throughout, that your whole ſpirit, and ſoul, and body, may be preſerved blameleſs unto the coming of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

Here we are more particularly to inſiſt on the *renovation* of our ſeveral {Faculties, Parts,} anſwera-

1. Our inward man. ble to what we did acknowledg concerning the *Depravation* of them, in the Confeſſion of our Original ſin. As firſt for our Faculties:

For our underſtandings. Ro. 12. 2. 1 Cor. 2. 14 Ro. 16. 19 1. That we may be *transformed by the renewing of our minds*: That we may be able to have a *ſpiritual diſcerning of the things of God*, being *wiſe to that which is good*, but ſimple and harmleſs to that which is evil.

Our conſcience. Heb. 9. 14 2. That he would *purge our Conſciences from dead works, to ſerve the living God:* that they may be tender of his glory, and our own good; truly performing the offices which belong unto them, both in *accuſing* and *excuſing* us, according to ſeveral occaſions.

3. That

3. That he would *circumcise our hearts*, that we may *set our affections on things above, and not on earthly matters*; that we may not be deceived with false appearances, *but may approve the things that are most excellent.* Our affections. Rom. 2. 29 Col. 3. 2. Phil. 1. 10

4. That he would reform and sanctifie our *wills*, that we may in every thing submit them unto his; *delighting to do his will. Not seeking our own wills, but the will of him that sent us.* Our Wills Psa. 40. 8. Joh. 5. 30.

5. That he would rectifie our *memories*, making them more faithful in *retaining* all such holy Lessons as we shall learn; in *recalling* them to mind, according to several opportunities; that we may be always ready *to stir up our minds by way of remembrance*, that we may never *forget* God. Our Memories. 2 Pet. 3. 1 Deu. 8. 11.

And so for our Parts, or outward man; that we may become the *Temple of God, where his Spirit may dwell:* That we may *present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service:* That all our parts and *members may be instruments of righteousness unto holiness.* 2. Our outward man. 1 Cor. 3. 16. Rom. 12. 1 Rom. 6. 13, 19.

In which desires, we may strengthen our faith with such arguments as these:

1. God only is *able* for this great *work: In us dwelleth nothing that is good:* It is he that must *work in us both to will and to do, of his good pleasure.* 'Tis not in our power to regenerate our selves; for *we are not born of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,* (that is, not of any natural created strength) *but of God.* And he is able to do *exceeding abundantly above all* Rom. 7. 18. Phil. 2. 13 Joh. 1. 13. Eph. 3. 20

that we can ask or think. 'Tis as eaſie for him to make us good, as to bid us to be ſo.

Ezek. 36. 26 Jer. 31. 33 Lu. 11. 13. 2. He is *willing*, and hath promiſed to *give unto us a new ſpirit:* To *put his law into our inward parts, to write it in our hearts.* And *if men that are evil, know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more ſhall our heavenly Father give the holy Spirit to them that ask him?* He 1 Theſ. 4. 3 hath profeſſed it to be his own will, *even our ſanctification*; and he cannot deny us the performance of his own will. He hath promiſed, that Mat. 5. 6. thoſe who *hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs, ſhall be filled.* And therefore if he hath in any meaſure given us this *hunger*, we need not doubt but he will give us this *fulneſs* likewiſe. He hath Pro. 8. 31. ſaid, that *he delights to dwell with the ſons of men.* And what reaſon have we to doubt the ſucceſs of our deſires, when we do beg of him to do that which he delights in?

II. The obedience of our lives. 2. The next thing to be prayed for, is the obedience of our lives, anſwerable to that in the Lords Prayer, *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven:* And here likewiſe we are to petition for ſpiritual grace and abilities, both to *perform*, and to *continue*, and to *encreaſe* in all holy duties.

1. For the *Performance* of them, that he would Pſal. 23. 3. *lead us into the paths of righteouſneſs:* That *with* 2 Cor. 1. 12. *ſimplicity and godly ſincerity we may have our con-* Tit. 2. 12 *verſation in this world:* That *denying all ungodlineſs and worldly luſts, we may live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly in this preſent world:* That God Heb. 12. 28 would *give us grace, whereby we may ſerve him acceptа-*

acceptably with reverence and godly fear: That we may *not any more be conformed unto this world:* Rom 12.2 *That being dead unto ſin, we may live unto righteouſneſs: Not any longer ſpending the reſt of our time in the fleſh, to the luſts of men, but to the will of God: That the time paſt of our lives may ſuffice to have ſerved divers luſts:* that for the future we may *walk as obedient children, not faſhioning our ſelves according to the former luſts of our ignorance; but as he who hath called us, is holy, ſo we may be holy in all manner of converſation.* 1 Pet. 2.21 1 Pet. 4. 2,3. 1 Pet. 1.14

To this purpoſe is that deſire of *David, O that my ways were directed to keep thy ſtatutes:* And in another place, *Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God: let thy good Spirit lead me into the land of uprightneſs.* And elſewhere, *Shew me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy paths: Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my ſalvation. Teach me thy ways, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy Name.* Pſa. 119.5 Pſal. 143 10. Pſal. 25. 4,5. Pſa. 86.11

2. For our *Continuance* in them. That *we may ſerve him without fear, in holineſs and righteouſneſs before him all the days of our lives.* Being *ſtedfaſt and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord: Holding faith and a good conſcience: Patiently continuing in well-doing, without wearineſs, as knowing that in due time we ſhall reap, if we faint not: Holding faſt the profeſſion of our faith, without wavering:* that our hearts may be *eſtabliſhed with grace:* that amidſt all outward changes and loſſes, we may ſtill *hold faſt our integrity.* Luke 1. 74,75 1 Cor. 15. 18 1 Tim. 1. 19 Rom. 2. 7 Gal. 6. 9. Heb. 10 23 Heb. 13. 9 Job 2. 3

Thus the *Apoſtle* prays for the *Theſſalonians,*

Thes. 2. 17. that God would *stablish them in every good word and work.*

2 Cor. 9. 8. 1 Thes. 4. 1. 3. For our *Encrease* in them: *That God would make all grace to abound towards us:* That we *always having all sufficiency to all things, may abound to every good work:* That we may be *strong in the* Eph. 6. 10. *Lord, and in the power of his might:* Being *filled* Phil. 1. 11. *with the fruits of righteousness, unto the glory and* Phil. 3. 14. *praise of God:* That *forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching unto those things which are before, we may continually press towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God.*

Thus doth the *Apostle* pray for the *Hebrews:* Heb. 13. 20, 21. *The God of Peace make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight.* And *Epaphras* for the Col. 4. 12. *Colossians, That they might stand perfect and compleat in all the will of God.*

CHAP. XVIII.

Of the several Graces and Duties injoyned in the First *Commandment.*

THE graces that we should pray for, are many of them briefly summed up together in several Scriptures. But for our more full and distinct apprehension of them, they may be more particularly considered, according to their distinct

Gal. 5. 22. 1 Tim. 6. 11. Tit. 2. 12.

ſtinct relations, either to the { Law. / Goſpel.

The duties enjoyned by both theſe, may be eaſily collected from thoſe vices and failings mentioned in our Confeſſion.

The firſt Table in the *Law* doth concern our duty to God.

The firſt *Commandment* doth enjoin us to have *Jehovah alone for our God*; that is, in all reſpects to behave our ſelves towards him as our God. So that by this we are directed to pray for theſe graces and duties, viz. *Knowledg* and *Belief* of him, *Truſt* and *Hope* in him, *Love* towards him, *Zeal* for him, *Rejoycing* in him, *Gratitude* towards him, *Patience* under him, *Obedience* to him, *Fear* of him, being *humble* before him.

Becauſe it is *not good that the ſoul ſhould be without Knowledg*; we ſhould therefore pray that he would be pleaſed *to encline our ears unto wiſdom, and apply our hearts to underſtanding:* That he would *open our eyes to behold the wondrous things of his Law:* That he would give unto us *the ſpirit of wiſdom and revelation in the knowledg of him; that the eyes of our underſtandings being enlightned, we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the Saints, and what is the exceeding greatneſs of his power to us-ward, who believe according to the working of his mighty power:* That he would enable us to be more inquiſitive after thoſe ſacred truths revealed in the Word; more diligent to acquaint our ſelves with his holy *Attributes* and

Knowledg Pro. 19. 2. Pro. 2. 2. Pſal. 119. 18. Eph 1. 17, 18

works; more mindful of his Holiness, Justice, Truth, Power, Omnipresence; that he is *about*
Psal. 139. 3 *our paths, and beds, and acquainted with all our ways.* He doth search and know us, understanding our thoughts afar off, all things being naked and open in his sight.

Col. 1. 9, 10 That we may be *filled with the knowledg of his will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may walk worthy of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and encreasing in*
Hos. 6. 3 *the knowledg of God, that we may follow on to know the Lord.*

That he would sanctifie to us the knowledg we have already attained, that it may not be idle and ineffectual, but may produce in our lives an-
Rom. 1. 18 swerable obedience, that we do not *withhold any truth in unrighteousness.*

Belief. That he would open our hearts to *believe* all those truths revealed in his word; that he would
Heb. 3. 12 enable us to *take diligent heed, lest there should be in any of us an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.* That we may firmly assent unto his promises and threats; and as we do profess
Tit. 3. 8 our selves *to believe in God, so we may be careful to maintain good works.*

Trust. That we may not *rely* on such outward means as cannot help us; but in all our wants and troubles, we may place our chief confidence on him, as knowing that he is infinitely Wise, Powerful, Merciful; both able and willing to succour us; that when we *know not what to do, our*
2 Chr. 20 12 *eyes may be upon him:* That in our greatest exigences, when we are in a state of darkness, and

can

can ſee no light, we may then *truſt in the name of the Lord, and ſtay upon our God:* That we may ſtill *caſt our burden upon him, and abide under the ſhadow of the Almighty: Commiting our ways unto the Lord: being careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and ſupplication, make our requeſts known unto God,* who careth for us, and will never leave or forſake us. Isa. 50.10 Pſal. 55. 22. Pſal. 91.1 Pſal. 37.5. Phil. 4.6.

That we may labour to ſtir up and ſtrengthen our *hope* in him, ſuch hope as may be well grounded, and will *not make us aſhamed*; of which we may *be always* able, *and ready to give anſwer to every man that aſketh us a reaſon.* That we may look more at *the things which are not ſeen, then at thoſe things which are ſeen:* That in times of fear and danger, we may *flye for refuge to lay hold on the hope ſet before us*; which hope may be as *an Anchor of the ſoul, both ſure and ſtedfaſt:* That no condition or temptation may make us *caſt away our confidence:* That we may *give all diligence to make our callings and elections ſure:* To clear unto our ſelves the evidences of our own everlaſting well-being. *Hope.* Rom. 5.5. 1 Pet. 3.15 2 Cor. 4.18 Heb 6.18 Verſe 19. Heb. 10. 35. 2 Pet. 1.10

That we may *love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our ſoul, and with all our might:* ſo far above that natural affection which we do bear to thoſe other things, whether *father or mother, wife or children, brethren or ſiſters, yea, and our own lives alſo*; that we may be ſaid *to hate* and deſpiſe them, *in compariſon of him.* That our love *may abound yet more and more in knowledg, and in all judgment:* That we may *approve the things that are excellent:* That we may delight *Love.* Deut. 6.5 Luke 4. 26 Phil. 1.9, 10

in

in all thoſe holy duties, whereby we may enjoy communion with him. That we may earneſtly long and thirſt after the enjoyment of him, *when*
Pſa.42.2. *we ſhall come and appear before him.*

Zeal. That he would make us *Zealous*, and fervent in all holy duties, reſolute and couragious in ſtand-
Tit.2.14. ing to the truth, not to be deterred by hopes or fears: Not wronging any good cauſe, either by our cowardize or indiſcretion. Not reſting our
Rev.3.16 ſelves in a *luke-warm profeſſion*, *being neither cold*
Jer. 9.10. *nor hot*; but being *valiant for the truth, and fer-*
Ro.12.11 *vent in ſpirit*: Always *zealouſly affected in a good*
Gal.4.18. *thing*: Not being *aſhamed of the Goſpel of Chriſt,*
Ro. 1. 16. *which is the power of God to ſalvation*; conſidering what he hath ſaid, That if we ſhall *be aſhamed*
Mar. 8.38 *of him in this adulterous generation*, *he alſo will be aſhamed of us when he comes in the glory of his Father with his holy Angels.*

Rejoycing in him. That we may *rejoyce* and *glory* in the LORD, placing our chief happineſs in a ſpiritual commu-
Pſal. 37.4 nion with him: *Serving him with joyfulneſs and*
Jer.9.24. *gladneſs of heart: Delighting greatly in his Com-*
Deut. 28. 47. *mandments*: Finding more happineſs *in the light*
Pſa.4.6,7 *of his countenance*, *than in the encreaſe of corn and*
Pſal.63.3 *wine*: preferring *his loving-kindneſs before life it ſelf.*

Gratitude. That he would make us more heartily ſenſible of thoſe many great favours which are continually multiplied upon us. That he would draw up our hearts to Heaven, in the acknowledgment of his bounty and goodneſs; that *our ſouls may bleſs him*, and our deſires may be always
Pſ.40.10, towards him; that we may be ready to *talk of his*

loving

loving kindneſs, and to ſpeak good of his Name; endeavouring to expreſs our gratitude, by the readineſs and cheerfulneſs of our obedience; Seeking *to glorifie his Name, by bearing much fruit unto him.* Joh. 15.8.

That we may be *Patient* under his afflicting hand, as conſidering that he is the Author as well of the *evil we ſuffer*, as of the *good we enjoy*. And *ſhall we receive good from the hand of God, and ſhall we not receive evil?* The greateſt Judgment that can befall us in this life, is far leſs then our deſerts; *'Tis the Lords mercy that we are not conſumed, becauſe his compaſſions fail not:* And then beſides, he hath promiſed, that *all things ſhall work together for the good of them that love him.* And though the Cup may be bitter, yet it proceeds from the *hand of a Father*. That we may *count our ſelves happy in what we ſuffer for righteouſneſs ſake; becauſe the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of Glory reſteth upon us.* That we may *rejoyce and glory in our tribulations; as knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not aſhamed.* Reckoning with our ſelves, that *the ſufferings of this preſent time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that ſhall be revealed in us:* That in all our ſufferings we may *truſt in the living God*; committing our ſouls unto him, who is our *faithful Creator*, and *righteous Judg.*

Patience.

Job 2. 10

Lam. 3. 22

Ro. 8. 28.

Joh. 18. 11

1 Pet. 3. 14

Rom. 5. 3, 4, 5.

Ro. 8. 18.

1 Tim. 4. 10.

1 Pet. 2. 23. & 4. 9.

That we may *accept the puniſhment of our iniquity, waiting upon God in the way of his Judgments.* Being willing *to put our mouths in the duſt*, rather then to open them in murmuring againſt him.

Lev. 26. 41.

Iſa. 26. 8.

Lam. 3. 29

Con-

Conſidering how unjuſt and unreaſonable it is
Lam. 3. 39 for *a living man to complain, a man for the puniſhment of his ſin*; and that it is rather *meet to be ſaid*
Job 34. 31, 32 *unto God, I have born chaſtiſement, I will not offend any more; that which I ſee not, teach thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more. I will*
Mic. 7. 9. *bear the indignation of the Lord, becauſe I have*
Ezek. 9. 13 *ſinned againſt him. He does puniſh us leſs then our iniquities deſerve.* Not dealing with us after our ſins, nor rewarding us according to our iniquities; and we have no reaſon to repine at kind and moderated corrections; though in ſome reſpect;
Pſal. 118. 18 *he hath chaſtned us ſore, yet he hath not given us over to death. He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve*
Lam. 3. 33 *the children of men.* And therefore we have great
2 Sam. 15. 26 reaſon totally to ſubmit and reſign up both our ſelves and affairs, to be governed by his wiſe pro-
1 Sam 3. 18 vidence, and to let *the Lord do with us what ſeemeth good unto him.*

Obedience. That we may be conſtant, univerſal, ſincere in
2 Kin. 20. 3 our Obedience; *Walking before him in truth, and with a perfect heart, and may do that which is good in his ſight.* That in the general courſe of our lives, we may demean our ſelves in a ſetled, regular way of ſubmiſſion and obedience, *having reſpect to all Gods Commandments; obeying from the*
Pſa. 119. 6 Rom. 6 17 *heart the form of Doctrine delivered to us; follow-*
Numb. 14 *ing the Lord fully*; walking exactly and preciſely
24 before him; that we may have not only *the*
2 Tim. 3. 5 *form of godlineſs, but the power alſo.*

Fear. That we may *ſanctifie the Lord God of Hoſts,*
Iſa. 8. 13. *making him our Fear, and our Dread*; conſidering
1 Pet. 4. 7. that *the end of all things is at hand*, when we muſt

all

all *appear before his dreadful Tribunal, every one to receive according to that he hath done in his body, whether it be good or bad:* That we may be leſs afraid of other matters that cannot hurt us, *men that ſhall dye, and the ſons of men that ſhall be made as graſs:* but may chiefly *fear him who is able to deſtroy both body and ſoul in hell.* Behaving our ſelves as being always in his ſight and preſence: as conſidering, that our moſt ſecret boſome ſins, which with ſuch Art and Care we have endeavoured to conceal from men, are all of them naked and open in his ſight, before whom we muſt be judged at the laſt day.

1 Cor. 5. 10. Iſa. 51. 12. Mat. 10. 28

That we may be *humble* before him, aſcribing nothing to our own power or merit; that our *heart may not be lifted up to forget the Lord*, nor our *minds hardned in pride*; as conſidering, that *his ſoul which is lifted up, is not upright in him.* And that *if any man think himſelf to be ſomething, when indeed he is nothing, he deceives himſelf:* That we may be *clothed with humility*, counting it our ſafeſt defence, and moſt comely ornament: That we may *not mind high things, nor be wiſe in our own conceits.* Conſidering the baſeneſs of our Original, the many diſeaſes and miſeries which our bodies are liable unto, the ſinful and ſlaviſh condition of our ſouls, our *nothingneſs* as *creatures*, our *vileneſs* as *ſinners*.

Humility. Deu. 8. 14 Dan. 5. 20 Hab. 2. 4. Gal. 6. 3. 1 Pet. 5. 5 Rom. 12. 16

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

What we are directed to pray for out of the Second *Commandment.*

THE ſecond Commandment does enjoin us to worſhipGod after ſuch a ſpiritual *manner*, and by ſuch holy *means*, as is agreeable to his Nature, and required in his Word.

So that from hence weare taught to prayfor the direction & aſſiſtance of his Spirit in all our holy duties; that he would work in us an holy frame and temper of heart, without which 'tis not poſſible for us to perform any acceptable ſervice: that he would quicken our affections to a greater fervency & delight in our attendance upon him.

That he would make us more careful in enjoying & increaſing our communion with him, by a conſcionable obſervance of all thoſe holy Ordinances which he hath appointed: particularly,

1. Prayer.
2. Miniſtry of the Word.
3. Receiving of the Sacraments.

1. *Prayer.* Zac. 12. 10

I. That he would *pour upon us the ſpirit of prayer and ſupplication*, make us diligent and conſtant in our {Publick / Private} devotions, that we may accuſtom our ſelves to them with a greater forwardneſs and delight, as being the chief means Joh. 16. 24. to eaſe our hearts of all troubles and ſorrows, *to fill up our joy.*

That

That we may be more ſolemn and *reverent* in our approaches before him, as conſidering that we who are but duſt and aſhes, vile, deſpicable creatures, are to ſpeak unto that dreadful Majeſty, before whom all the world ſhall be judged at the laſt day.

That we may be more *vigilant* over our own hearts, in reſpect of roving diſtracted thoughts, which are ſo apt to interrupt us in this duty. That we may *ſtir up our ſelves to lay hold on God*, and *ſet our faces to ſeek him*: Not *pouring out words* only, but *our ſouls before him*: *Serving him in our ſpirits*: *Drawing near unto him with a true heart, ſprinkled from an evil conſcience.* Iſa. 64. 7. Rom. 1. 9. Heb. 10. 22.

That he would be pleaſed to *aſſiſt us*, and to *accept of us* in this duty: *Shedding abroad his love in our hearts*: *Opening our lips, that our mouths may ſhew forth his praiſe.* And then that the *words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, may be always acceptable in his ſight.* Rom. 5. 5. Pſal. 51. 15. Pſa. 19. 14

That we may *Confeſs* our ſins with a greater ſenſe and ſorrow for them, feeling in our ſelves a greater loathing and deteſtation of them: *Acknowledging our tranſgreſſions, and ſetting our ſins before us*; *abhorring* our ſelves for them, and *repenting in duſt and aſhes.* *Confeſſion.* Pſal. 51. 3 Job 42. 6.

That we may put up our *Petitions* with a greater faith and fervency, as being truly ſenſible of our own wants, and thoſe gracious premiſes which he hath made for the ſupply of them: *Drawing near in the full aſſurance of faith, nothing wavering*: *Asking ſuch things as are according to his will.* That his Spirit may help our infirmities, and *Petition.* Heb. 10. 22 Jam. 1. 6 1 John 5. 14.

and make interceſſion for us; and that he would remember the promiſe which he hath made to be *nigh unto them which call upon him in truth*; *and to fulfil the deſire of thoſe that fear him.*

Pſal. 145. 18.

Thankgiving. That we may give thanks with greater cheerfulneſs, and love, and ſenſe of his favours, with ſuch heartineſs and fervency as may be in ſome meaſure proportionable to our importunity, in the want of mercies: That we may be ready *to ſpeak the praiſes of God, whilſt we have any being:* That *our meditations of him may be ſweet, and we may be glad in the Lord.*

Pſal. 104. 33, 34

That we may retain a reliſh and taſte of this holy duty in our minds, after the performance of it; behaving our ſelves anſwerably in the courſe of our lives, obſerving what return is made to our prayers. *Hearkning what God the Lord will ſay.* Conſidering the ſeveral ways and diſpenſations of his Providence towards us; *that we may underſtand the loving-kindneſs of the Lord.*

Pſal. 85. 8.

Pſal. 107. 34.

2 Miniſtry of the Word. This Commandment does likewiſe concern the duties which belong to that other Ordinance, the *Miniſtry of the Word*, in reference both to

{Miniſter. People.}

The *Miniſter* may hereby be directed to pray, that God would endow him with all thoſe graces and abilities, which may fit him for the diſcharge of his Calling, both in reſpect of his {Life, Doctrine,} that he may both ſave *himſelf, and them that hear him.*

1 Tim. 4. 16. Tit. 2. 7.

1. For his *Life*: That he may *ſhew himſelf as a pat-*

a pattern of good works: Of *a blameleſs converſation; not ſelf-willed, not ſoon angry. Not given to wine, no ſtriker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of good men, ſober, juſt, holy, temperate, gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. Renouncing the hidden things of diſhoneſty. Not walking in craftineſs, but by manifeſtation of the truth, commending himſelf unto every mans Conſcience in the ſight of God.* Behaving himſelf as *a ſteward of the Myſteries of God. Not ſeeking ſo much his own profit, as the profit of many, that they may be ſaved; that after he hath preached unto others, he himſelf may not become a caſt-away.* Tit. 1.7,8 2 Tim. 2. 24 2 Cor. 4.2 1 Cor. 4.1 1 Cor. 10. 33. 1 Cor. 9. 27.

2. For his *Doctrine*, that he may *ſtudy to approve himſelf unto God, a workman that needeth not to be aſhamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* That he may *preach the word, being inſtant in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-ſuffering and doctrine; with meekneſs inſtructing thoſe that oppoſe themſelves, if God peradventure will give them repentance, to the acknowledgment of the truth.* Feeding the *flock of God, not by conſtraint, but willingly; Not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.* That he may *ſpeak as the Oracles of God.* That his Doctrine may be *in demonſtration of the ſpirit, and of power;* with *uncorruptedneſs, gravity, ſincerity, not as pleaſing men, but God, who trieth the hearts.* 2 Tim. 2. 15. 2 Tim. 4. 2. 2 Tim. 2. 25. 1 Pet. 5. 2. 1 Pet. 4. 11 1 Cor. 2. 4 Tit. 2. 7. 1 Theſ. 2. 4

The *People* or Hearers may be hereby directed to pray for a greater *love* and *eſteem* of his word, as being the Ordinance of his Infinite wiſdom, which he can make effectual for the converſion and ſalvation of ſouls. Conſidering that the 1 Love and prizing of the word

faſhion of the world paſſeth away. Pleaſures ſhall dye and vaniſh, *Honours* ſhall be laid in the duſt, *Gold & Silver* ſhall ruſt and canker; but the *Word*
1 Pet. 1. 23 *of God abideth for ever.* This alone is able to *make*
2 Tim. 3. 15. *us wiſe unto ſalvation*, and to *ſave our ſouls*, being
John 12. 48. that word by which *we ſhall be judged* at the laſt day. That therefore we may value it *above Gold*
Pſal. 19. 10. *and Silver*, finding a reliſh in it *ſweeter then the honey and the honey-comb.* That we may always *love*
Pſal. 26. 7, 8. *the beauty of his houſe, and the place where his honor*
Pſal. 27. 4 *dwelleth. To publiſh with the voice of Thankſgiving, and to tell of all his wondrous works. This one*
Pſa. 96. 6. *thing have I deſired of the Lord, that will I ſeek after, that I may dwell in the houſe of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his Temple. Strength and beauty are in his Sanctuary.*

That we may have a greater care to know and practiſe his will: *As new-born babes deſiring*
1 Pet. 2. 2 *the ſincere milk of the Word, to grow thereby.* That he would teach us ſo to prize and improve the preſent liberty and ſun-ſhine of the Goſpel, that we may be careful *in this our day*, to lay up for our ſelves a good foundation againſt the evil time.

2. Due preparation for it, and a bleſſing upon it.

That we may approach unto this Ordinance with ſuch reverent and prepared affections, as may become his more eſpecial Preſence amongſt us: *Conſidering our feet* when we draw near before him; that he would over-aw our ſpirits with an holy fear and reverence, in the apprehenſion of his Preſence, & beholding of us, who is a God of infinite Holineſs, and glorious Majeſty; that we may bow down our ſouls with a willing ſubjection

jection unto every ſacred truth: That he would ſubdue the pride of our hearts, *Caſt down every imagination that exalteth it ſelf againſt him, and bring into ſubjection every thought unto the obedience of Chriſt:* and becauſe the Word of it ſelf is but a *dead letter*, and it is not in the power of any outward means, the wiſdom or preparation of weak ſinful man, to ſubdue the power of ſin, the Kingdom of Satan, or to *create men in Chriſt Jeſus unto good works*, That therefore he would be pleaſed to accompany the outward means, by the inward efficacy and operation of his Spirit. Man can ſpeak only unto the *ear*, but he can ſpeak unto the *heart*; and 'tis as eaſie for him to make us good, as to bid us be ſo; and, He hath promiſed *to meet* ſuch as deſire *to wait upon him, and to remember him in his ways*. That He would remove from our underſtandings that veil of ignorance and infidelity, whereby we are made incapable of ſpiritual truths; that he would take from our affections that natural pravity & malice, whereby we are made enemies to ſpiritual notions, that we may receive the truth, not only in the *light*, but in the *love* of it. Not *with-holding any truth in unrighteouſneſs*. That he would ſtrengthen us againſt all temptations of Satan, cares of the world, hardneſs of our own hearts, or what ever may hinder our profitable & ſaving hearing. That he would take from us all irreverence, diſtraction, prejudice, dulneſs in hearing of his Word: And becauſe it muſt redound either to the glory of his *Juſtice*, in our further hardning, and final condemnation; or to the glory of his *Mercy*, in

2 Cor. 10. 5

Eph. 2. 10

Iſa. 64. 5.

2 Theſ. 2. 10.

Rom. 1. 18

our converſion and ſalvation; that he would
Iſa. 55. 10, therefore ſanctifie it to our good, that *as the rain*
11. *cometh down from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it fruitful; ſo the word that goeth out of his mouth, may not return unto him void, but accompliſh his good pleaſure, and proſper in that to which it is ſent.* That it may be
Heb. 4. 12 unto us *ſharp as a two-edged ſword, to the dividing aſunder of the ſoul and ſpirit, the joynts and marrow, diſcovering the very thoughts and intentions of the*
1 Cor. 3. 6 *heart.* And becauſe *Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, but he onely can give the encreaſe*; that therefore he would be pleaſed to give a bleſſing and ſucceſe to his own Ordinance. That his
Pſal. 19. 7 Word may be unto us *a word of power, converting the ſoul, and making wiſe the ſimple*: that he would
Pro. 10. 12 give unto us *hearing ears, and underſtanding hearts, that we may believe, and be ſaved.* That he would
Jer. 31. 33 *write his laws in our inward parts.* That he would
Pſ. 119. v. *open our eyes to behold the wondrous things of his law.*
18, 36, 133 *Incline our hearts* to affect; *direct our ſteps* that we may walk in the paths of his precepts. *Shew*
Pſ. 25. 4, 5 *us thy ways, O Lord, and teach us thy paths; lead us in thy truth, and guide us, for thou art the God of our Salvation.*

Pſ. 86. 11. *Teach us thy ways, O Lord, and we will walk in thy truth; unite our hearts to fear thy Name. Shew*
Pſal. 143. *us the way that we ſhould walk in, for we lift up our*
8, 10. *ſouls unto thee. Teach us to do thy will, for thou art our God; let thy good ſpirit lead us into the Land of uprightneſs.*

3. Our *demeanour at it.* That we may behave our ſelves with humility, attention, alacrity, laying down all high thoughts fleſh-

fleshly reasonings, stubborn resolutions, being ready to *receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save our souls.* That we may enjoy communion with him in his Ordinances; that he would *fill us with all joy and peace in believing:* That he would sanctifie our judgments, affections, memories, that we may apprehend and believe, and affect and retain those sacred truths that shall be delivered. That he would enlighten our minds, open our hearts, soften our consciences, compose our thoughts to attend unto his Word with meekness and faith, *receiving it into good and honest hearts,* with full purpose to walk answerably to it in our conversations. That Christ may be formed in us, that our hearts may be established in every good word and way. That our meeting together may prove for the better, and not for the worse.

Jam. 1.12
Rom. 15. 13.
Luk. 8. 15

That we may after the hearing of it, digest and settle it in our minds, by prayer, meditation, conference, practise. Expressing the power of it in our lives, in all well-pleasing conversation and godliness. *Having our fruit unto holiness, that our ends may be everlasting life.* That he would prosper unto us the precious seed sown amongst us, that neither the *fowls of the air* devour it, nor the *thorns choak it*; but that it may sink down into our hearts, and spring up in our conversations, bringing forth in us the fruit of repentance and amendment of life; that it may be effectual for the subduing of our sins, the strengthening of our graces, *transforming us daily into his image, from glory to glory.* That we may lead our

4 Profiting by it afterwards.
Rom. 6. 22.
Luke 8.5.
2 Cor. 3. 18.

lives in ſome meaſure anſwerably to the knowledg and means we have had, as conſidering, that

Luk. 12. 48 *to whom much is given, of them much will be required.* That we may *not receive his Grace in vain.*

2 Cor. 6. 1 *Not being forgetful hearers, but doers of the word.*

Jam. 1, 25. That we may be able to ſay by experience, *It is good for us to be here*, and to wait upon God in his Ordinances: that we may *grow in grace,*

2 Pet. 3. 18. *and in the knowledg of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.*

That he would lead us forward to perfection, guiding us by his grace, and after bringing us to his glory. That in this life *beholding his face in*

Pſ. 17. 15. *righteouſneſs*, when we awake up in the reſurrection, *we may be fully ſatisfied with his Image.*

3. Sacraments. 3. Under this Commandment likewiſe, are comprehended the duties that concern our reverent eſteem and uſe of the Sacraments.

Baptiſm. 1. For that of *Baptiſm*, That we may be truly ſenſible of the free mercy of God, in making a gracious Covenant to us and our poſterity, and condeſcending ſo far unto human frailties, as to afford us outward and viſible ſignes and ſeals of this Covenant; to preſent that to our ſenſes, which ought to be apprehended by our faith. That we may more frequently conſider, and eſteem of this ſingular prerogative, of our being actually admitted into his family, and having his name put upon us. That therefore we may reſign up our ſelves wholly unto his good pleaſure, chuſing him to be our Governour, & our portion for ever; that we may be more careful in obſerving that ſolemn Covenant, which our Baptiſm did

did engage us unto, To forsake the Devil and all his works, the vanities and lusts of the world, and to continue faithful in our service to him. That this Ordinance may not be unto us only an *outward washing away of the filth of the flesh*, but the laver of regeneration, *working in us a good conscience towards God*; and may effectually seal unto us our redemption, remission of sins, and eternal life, with all those promises that are contained in the Covenant of Grace; that as we are received into the bosome of the visible Church, and distinguished from *those that are without*, so we may labour to walk as becomes this relation, that *the body of sin may be destroyed* in us, and *his Image may be renewed in us daily*. That we may serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. 1 Pet. 3. 21

2. For the *Lords Supper*. That he would continue unto us our liberty unto that precious Ordinance, raising our hearts unto an higher esteem and love of it; quickning us to a more frequent attendance upon him in it, with fervency and delight. That he would *prepare* us for it, *assist* us in it, and make it effectual to us afterwards. The Lords Supper.

That he would furnish us with all those graces which may make us worthy Communicants at his holy Table, affecting our hearts with an holy awe and reverence, upon our near approaching unto him in this solemn Ordinance, lest we should be found amongst the guests at his Table, without having the wedding-garment: That we may after a more special manner stir up in our selves the graces of his holy Spirit, impartially examining

the condition of our own hearts, how we ſtand *to him* in regard of knowledg, repentance, faith; *to men* in reſpect of our love and charity; that we may renew our Covenant with him by freſh reſolutions of ſtrict and circumſpect walking, and that he would make good his Covenant with us, in taking from us the guilt and power of our ſins, & in giving unto us a new nature, with all thoſe other priviledges that were purchaſed for us by the death of Chriſt, which is herein repreſented.

At the *receiving* of this Sacrament, that he would enable us to behave our ſelves with reverence and true devotion; to uſe it as a ſacrifice of praiſe unto him, a memorial of Chriſts death for us, and a means to confirm our faith in him: that as we do by our *ſenſes* receive the common element of *bread and wine* to our *corporal* nouriſhment, ſo we may by our *faith* receive the *body and blood of Chriſt* to our *ſpiritual* nouriſhment, that he may live to us, and we in him; that this may renew in our thoughts the remembrance of Chriſts Death and Paſſion for us, and our own duty of love and obedience to him; that it may be a means to weaken our corruptions, to ſtrengthen our graces, to renew us in the ſpirit of our minds, according to the image of him that created us.

That we may *afterwards* labour to feel the benefit of it in our lives, and conſcionably to perform all thoſe good reſolutions, which in the time of our preparation we have purpoſed and promiſed, that we may be careful to examine our improvement by it, in reſpect of growth in grace

power,

power againſt corruption, comfort and enlargement of heart, labouring to walk worthy of the grace of God herein profered and repreſented, as becomes thoſe who have received ſo great pledges of ſalvation.

CHAP. XX.

Of the Duties required in the Third *and* Fourth *Commandment.*

THE third Commandment does enjoin the ſanctifying of God's Name.

By this we are directed to pray, that he would enable us to bear a reverent and high eſteem unto all his glorious *Titles* and *Attributes*, his holy *Word*, the *Religion* we profeſs, his mighty *Works*. Deut. 28 58

That we may *fear that glorious and fearful Name the Lord our God*; that we may *ſanctifie the Lord God in our hearts*; being more careful to obſerve and meditate upon his holy Attributes and Titles, more ſolemn and reverent in mentioning his Name and Word upon every good occaſion. 1 Pet. 3.15

That we may be more conſcionable in obſerving all thoſe good promiſes and reſolutions which we have made.

That we may walk *worthy of that vocation wherewith we are called*, labouring by an holy life to adorn our profeſſion, and bring glory to his Name. Eph. 4.1.

That we may be *blameleſs and harmleſs, the ſons of God, without rebuke, in the midſt of a* Phil. 2.15

crooked

crooked and perverſe generation, amongſt whom we may ſhine as lights in the world. That he would
Mat. 5. 16 make our *light ſo to ſhine before men, that they ſeeing our good works, may glorifie our Father who is in Heaven.*

That we may never grieve the hearts, or ſhame the faces of true Profeſſors.

1 Theſ. 4. 12 That we may *walk honeſtly to thoſe that are without*; behaving our ſelves ſo warily, that we
Rom. 2. 24. may never occaſion *his name to be blaſphemed*; *that with well-doing we may put to ſilence the ignorance*
1 Pet. 2. 15 *of fooliſh men, that they may be aſhamed who ſpeak*
1 Pet. 3. 16 *evil of us, and falſly accuſe our good converſation.*

That we may be more ready to obſerve and
Pſa. 145. 5 extol his great Power, Wiſdom, Goodneſs, ſo evident both in his making and governing of the World. His various and manifold works *that*
Pſal. 107. 24. *are done in wiſdom:* More eſpecially thoſe par-
Verſe 43. ticular paſſages of his Providence, which con-
Pſal. 92. 5, 6. cern our ſelves: *That we may underſtand the loving-kindneſs of the Lord: O Lord, how great are thy works, and thy thoughts are very deep; a bruiſh man knoweth not, neither doth a fool underſtand this.*

The fourth *Command.* The fourth Commandment does enjoin us to remember, and to ſanctifie the Sabbaths

{ Ordinary.
{ Extraordinary.

So that from hence we are taught to pray, that God would teach us to eſteem of the Sabbath, as
Iſa. 58. 13. *an holy honourable day*, ſet apart from common uſe, conſecrated to his particular worſhip and ſervice, that we may call it a delight, finding a great

great pleaſure and ſweetneſs in thoſe ſacred duties that belong unto it; that they may not ſeem tedious and irkſome unto us; eſpecially ſince we all profeſs to wiſh, and hope for ſuch a bleſſed Eternity hereafter, as ſhall be nothing elſe but *Sabbath*.

That we may always remember to fit our ſelves for the ſanctifying of this day, by laying aſide all ſecular buſineſſes and diverſions, endeavouring by Prayer and Meditation to put our hearts into ſuch an holy frame as is required of thoſe that deſire to wait upon him in his Ordinances.

That he would be graciouſly preſent with all thoſe Aſſemblies of his Saints, which do on that day meet together for his worſhip and ſervice, in any part of the Chriſtian World: that he would be pleaſed to aſſiſt and direct his Miniſters, that they may deliver his Word with plainneſs and power, to the capacity of the weakeſt, and conviction of the wiſeſt, that the people may receive it with meekneſs and faith, that ſo it may *accompliſh that good work for which it is ſent*, and mightily prevail to the caſting down the ſtrong holds of ſin, the edifying of his Church; and the making up the number of his Elect. Iſa. 55. 11.

That he would more eſpecially direct and aſſiſt the Miniſter unto whoſe charge we belong, to ſpeak unto our conſciences, giving unto him *the tongue of the learned, that he may know how to ſpeak a word in ſeaſon to him that is weary*. Being careful *to feed the Flock, ſtrengthening the diſeaſed, healing that which is ſick, binding up the broken, ſeeking that which is driven away, and loſt*: that Iſa. 50. 4. Ez. 34. 4.

he

Jer. 3. 15. he would *give unto us Pastors after his own heart, who may feed us with knowledg and understanding*; Isa. 53. 10. and that the *work of the Lord may prosper in their hands.*

That he would remove from us all irreverence, distraction, dulness, prejudice in hearing of his Word; that he would enlighten our minds, quicken our affections, and strengthen our memories for the receiving and retaining of it.

That we may be careful of all those *publick* and *private* duties, which concern the sanctification of this day, both in respect of our selves, and those Isa. 58. 13 committed to our charge. *Not doing after our own ways, nor finding our own pleasures, nor speaking our own words.* But may consecrate our whole selves, both souls, bodies and services, to his more especial Worship; spending the whole day with cheerfulness in the duties of Religion, necessity and mercy.

And so for extraordinary Sabbaths { Festivals. / Fasts.

1. For occasional *Festivals*, the solemn times of Joy and Thanksgiving; that we may be Neh. 8. 9. careful to keep such times *holy unto the Lord*; not resting our selves in external jollity, and freedom, but may seriously ponder the mercies which we celebrate, endeavouring to have our hearts affected and enlarged with love and gratitude: that our mouths may be filled with his praise: that by our experience of his goodness, we may learn to depend upon him, and to be more confident in him in all future exigences, exciting

exciting others unto this duty. *O magnifie the Lord with me, and let us exalt his Name together.* Endeavouring to expreſs our thankfulneſs to him, by our readineſs to relieve and ſupply his poor members: *Sending portions to thoſe that have nothing*; that we may make *the joy of the Lord to be our ſtrength.* Pſal. 34. 3 Eſt. 9. 22. Neh. 8. 10

2. For days of *Faſting*, which are ſtiled Sabbaths in Scripture; that we may not neglect this duty, when we have any extraordinary call unto it; that we may not ſatisfie our ſelves in the outward obſervance of it, but may be moſt careful of the inward duties. *Renting of the heart, afflicting of the ſoul: Abhorring our ſelves, and repenting in duſt and aſhes. Remembring our evil ways and doings which were not good, and loathing our ſelves for them:* Being *aſhamed of our former works of darkneſs. Renewing our Covenant* with God; expreſſing a readineſs and zeal in the works of mercy and righteouſneſs; *looſing the bands of wickedneſs, undoing the heavy burdens.* Job 42. 6. Ez. 36. 31 Rom. 6. 21. Neh. 9. 31 Iſa. 58. 6.

CHAP. XXI.

What we are directed to pray for in the ſecond Table.

THE ſecond Table does injoin us to love our Neighbours as our ſelves: that is, 1. We ſhould not wiſh any evil more to others, then to our ſelves. 2. We ſhould deſire, and (as much as we

we can) endeavour all good {Natural, Spiritual,} for others, as we ought for our selves.

So that by this we are directed to pray, that we may be *kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, without dissimulation. Not in word only, and tongue; but in deed and truth: Loving each other with a pure heart, fervently.* That our love may *continue* and increase, *abounding more and more towards one another, and towards all men, in knowledg and in all judgment. As we have opportunity doing good unto all men, but especially to the houshold of Faith.* That we may *love our enemies, and bless them that curse us, and pray for them that despitefully use us, and persecute us; considering one another, to provoke unto love, and good works.*

Ro. 12. 10
Verse 9.
1 Joh. 3. 18
1 Pet. 1. 22.
Heb. 13. 1.
1 Thes. 3. 12.
Phil. 1. 9.
Gal. 6. 10.
Mat. 5. 44
Heb. 10. 24.

The fifth Commandment does enjoyn the duties which concern the degrees and relations amongst men, whether {Superiours. Inferiours.}

The fifth Commaud.

By this we may learn to pray for all those graces and abilities, whereby we may be fitted for the filling up of our several relations; that we may be careful to acknowledg and observe that order which God hath appointed amongst men, and to demean our selves towards them according to their places and degrees: Gravely and modestly towards our *Inferiours*: Reverently, and dutifully to our *Superiours*: Humbly and thankfully to our *Benefactors*: Being kindly affectioned towards our *Equals*, *in honour prefering one another.*

Rom. 12. 10.

More

More particularly, we may hence learn to pray for those graces which concern the relation of

Parents: That they may be careful in providing for the welfare of their childrens souls and bodies. *Teaching of them diligently*, admonishing, and correcting of them seasonably, *bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* Deut. 6. 7. Eph. 6. 4.

Children: That they may love, honour, and *fear* their Parents, *obeying them in all things*; striving upon all occasions to express their thankfulness to them. Lev. 19. 3 Col. 3. 20.

Husbands: That they may *love their wives as themselves: Not being bitter unto them: Giving honour to them as to the weaker vessels, and as being heirs together of the grace of life.* Bearing with their infirmities, providing for them, protecting of them, delighting in them, behaving themselves with much prudence and tenderness towards them. Col. 3. 19 Eph. 5. 28 1 Pet. 3. 7

Wives: That they may help, *reverence*, and *be in subjection to their Husbands*; labouring chiefly to be *adorned with a meek and quiet spirit, continuing in faith, and charity, and holiness, with sobriety:* Being careful and helpful in all those family-duties that concern their relations, studying to be content in the midst of all Marriage-cares and troubles. Eph. 5. 33 1 Pet. 3. 1, 4.

Masters: That they may behave themselves prudently, *justly*, *gently*, to their servants, as considering that *they also have a Master in Heaven.* Col. 4. 1. Eph. 6. 9.

Servants: That they may be *subject to their Masters with all fear.* Not only when they are good and 1 Pet. 2. 18.

and gentle, but when they are froward; *Not*
Eph. 6. *with eye-ſervice, as men-pleaſers; but willingly, and*
6, 7 *from the heart, ſhewing all good fidelity.*

Ancient: That they may be *found in the way of*
Tit. 2. 10 *righteouſneſs.* Being *ſober, grave, temperate, ſound*
Prov. 16 31 *in the Faith, in Charity, and Patience*, that ſo they may behave themſelves worthy of that Crown of old Age, and the honour due unto it.

Tit. 2. 6. *Younger:* That they may be *ſober-minded, re-*
1 Tim. 5. 1 *verencing the Aged as Fathers*; being ready to be taught by their wiſdom, experience, and to follow their good { Counſels. Examples.

Superiors in Gifts: That they may acknowledg all their abilities to be *the free-gift of God*, be-
1 Cor. 4. 7 ing willing to improve them unto his glory, and the good of their *Inferiors*. Not deſpiſing thoſe
Rom. 15 below them; *bearing with the infirmities of the*
1, 2 *weak*; uſing their liberty for edification, and not for offence.

Inferiors in Gifts: That they may acknowledg every gift of God in thoſe above them; not either *judging*, envying, or flattering, but truly reverencing and eſteeming them for it.

Magiſtrates: That they may be upright and conſcionable in the eſtabliſhment of Juſtice, and Peace, and Religion: Behaving themſelves as God's Vicegerents; Remembring that *thoſe who*
2 Sam. 23 3 *rule over men, muſt be juſt, ruling in the fear of God*;
Rom. 13 3 uſing their power for *the encouragement of thoſe*
Pſal. 101 *that do well, and the terror of evil doers.* Having
6, 7 reſpect to the *faithful in the land, and thoſe that walk in a perfect way.* Being ſevere towards deceit-

ceitful and wicked doers; being diligent in the discharge of their places with piety, wisdom, courage, clemency, &c. that those under them may *lead a peaceable and quiet life, in all godliness* 1 Tim. 2. 2
and honesty.

Subjects: That they may be endowed with humble and peaceable affections: *Obeying them* Heb. 13. 17
that have the rule over them: Submitting unto the higher Power *out of Conscience,* as being *ordained of God.*

Teachers: That they may be careful and conscionable both in their Examples and Counsels; *Watching for the souls of those who are committed to* Heb. 13. 17
their charge, that they may give an account with joy, and not with grief.

Learners: That they may *esteem highly of their* 1 Thes. 5.
Teachers in love, for their Works sake: improving 13
all opportunities of benefiting by them.

The sixth Commandment does enjoin all The sixth
those duties which concern the health & welfare *Command.*
of our Neighbours, and our own { Bodies. / Souls.

And consequently, the graces of friendship, mercy, peaceableness, meekness, temperance, &c. By this we are directed to pray,

That we may be restrained from all acts of violence, either in our selves or others, avoiding *the company of angry* contentious *persons.* Pr. 22. 24

That God would give unto us mild and peaceable spirits, that we may be *slow to anger, put-* Jam. 1. 19
ting on bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness Col. 3. 12,
of mind, meekness, and long-suffering, forbear- 13.
ing one another, and forgiving one another, even Eph. 4. 32

as God for Chriſts ſake hath forgiven us.

That we may be careful in obſerving the duties of mutual friendſhip and peace, more mild
Eph. 4. 31 and courteous in our behaviour; *putting away all bitterneſs, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and*
Ro. 12. 18 *evil ſpeaking.* That as far *as it is poſſible, and as much as in us lies, we may have peace with all men.*

That we may have a mutual ſenſe and compaſſion of one anothers conditions, as being *fellow-*
1 Cor. 12. *members* of the ſame body, *rejoycing with them that*
26. *rejoyce, and weeping with them that weep; bearing one*
Ro. 12. 15 *anothers burdens:* Relieving the needy, viſiting
Gal. 6. 2. the ſick, delivering the oppreſſed, being innocent and helpful towards all.

That we may be wary and inoffenſive in our carriages; not wronging the ſouls of others, but endeavouring as much as we can, to promote
Rom. 14. their ſpiritual welfare, *by following the things*
17. *whereby we may edifie one another*: Inſtructing the ignorant, reproving offenders, comforting the weak, quickning and encouraging the backward.

That we may be careful to obſerve our own bodily health, by wiſe preventing and avoiding of dangers. Being ſober in our diet, moderate in our care and paſſions, temperate in our recreations, cheerful in our buſineſs.

That we may be diligent in *working out our own ſalvations*, and providing for the welfare of our ſouls, againſt that time when all earthly contentments ſhall vaniſh away.

The 7th *Command.* The ſeventh Commandment does concern the duty

duty of Chaſtity in the { Kinds / Means / Signs } of it, and that both in reſpect of our ſelves and others.

By this we may learn to pray, that God would enable us to *poſſeſs our veſſels in ſanctification and honour*; that we may not *ſin againſt our own bodies*, but may keep them undefiled, as being *Members of Chriſt*, and *Temples of the Holy Ghoſt*; *mortifying our members which are upon the earth, fornication, uncleanneſs, inordinate affection, evil concupiſcence.*

1 Theſ. 4. 4. 1 Cor. 6. 18, 19. Verſe 15. Col. 3. 5.

That we may be pure and chaſte in all the thoughts of our hearts, *abſtaining from fleſhly luſts which fight againſt the ſoul.*

1 Pet. 2. 11

That we may make a ſtrict *Covenant with our eyes*, leſt they ſhould inſnare us, by beholding vanity; that we may ſet a watch before our mouths and ears, *that no filthy communication do proceed from us*, or enter into us; that we may be watchful and ſober in our converſations, avoiding idleneſs, intemperance, evil company, and all other ſuch occaſions, whereby we may be tempted to this ſin; *Keeping under our bodies, and bringing them into ſubjection.*

Job 31. 1. Col. 3. 8. Ro. 3. 27.

That we may endeavour, according to our ſeveral opportunities, to promote this grace of chaſtity in others, by our prayers, counſels, examples.

The Eighth Commandment does enjoyn thoſe duties which concern our own, or our Neighbours *outward eſtate:* Referring to Juſtice, Diligence in our Callings, Frugality,

The 8th Command.

Liberality, Almes, Hoſpitality, Reſtitution.

1Cor.6.8. By this we are taught to pray, that we may *not wrong or defraud our brethren*, by any outward act of oppreſſion, injuſtice or deceit.

That our hearts may not be troubled with any ſolicitous or carking cares; that our *converſation* Heb.13.5 *may be without covetouſneſs, being content with ſuch things as we have*; truſting in his promiſe, Pſ.34.10. that he *will never leave us, nor forſake us*; that they *who ſeek the Lord, ſhall lack nothing that is good:* Remembring how he hath commanded us to caſt all our care upon him, and how he provides for the Fowles of the air, and the Beaſts of the field; and that in our greateſt diſcontents, we are in much better condition for the world, than many of his bleſſed Saints and Martyrs, who Heb. 11. 37. were forced to *wander up and down in ſheep-skins, and goat-skins*; and that we enjoy more than our bleſſed Saviour himſelf did, who though he were Lord of the World, yet had not whereon to reſt his head.

Phil.4.11 12. That he would teach us *how to abound, and how to want, and in all eſtates to be content:* That he 1 Joh. 2. 15. would moderate our deſires to theſe earthly things; that we may not too much *love the world,* 1Cor. 12. 31 *nor the things of the world*; that we may *covet* Lu.12.31 *earneſtly the beſt things, ſeeking firſt the Kingdom of God, and the Righteouſneſs thereof*; expecting other matters as additions thereunto: to eſteem godlineſs for the greateſt gain; and as for theſe outward things, not to deſire any abundance of them, but *if we have food and raiment, therewith* 1 Tim. 6. 6, 8. *to be contented.*

That

That we may be juſt and upright in the ways of getting wealth; that we may *not go beyond, or defraud any one*, as knowing *that the Lord is the revenger of all ſuch*; being diligent in our callings, *working with our own hands the thing which is good, that we may be able to give to them that need.* Being conſcientious in *repaying* that we owe, in making *reſtitution* of that wherein we have wronged any one. 1 Theſ. 4. 6. Eph 4.28

That he would give us hearts to uſe and enjoy the eſtates which we poſſeſs, *power to eat thereof, and to take our portion, and to rejoyce in our labour.* Eccl. 5.19

That we may be wiſe and faithful in laying out the talents committed to our truſt: Not laviſhing of them by any idle and vain expences, as knowing that we are but ſtewards of our eſtates, being to give an account of them to our Lord and Maſter: Not niggardly and ſparing towards any work of charity: *Not truſting in uncertain riches, but in the living God: That we may do good, be rich in good works, ready to diſtribute, willing to communicate; laying up in ſtore for our ſelves a good foundation againſt the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life. Making our ſelves friends of the unrighteous Mammon, which may hereafter receive us into everlaſting habitations: Laying up for our ſelves treaſures in heaven:* Conſidering, that *he who ſoweth ſparingly, ſhall reap ſparingly; and he who ſoweth bountifully, ſhall reap bountifully.* 1 Tim. 6. 17,18,19. Luk. 16.9 Lu. 12.33 2 Cor. 9.6.

The Ninth Commandment does refer to duties which concern our Neighbours, or our own reputations. The 9th Command.

From this we may learn to pray, that we may be tender and charitable in upholding the credit of others, willing to ſpeak, and hear, and
Pro. 17. 9. judg the beſt of them, *covering their infirmities in love.*

Pſal. 15. 3 Not *back-biting with our tongues, nor taking up a*
Tit. 3. 2. *reproach againſt our neighbours: not ſpeaking evil of any one, but being gentle, ſhewing all meekneſs to all men.*

That we may not be willing to liſten unto, and hearken after any rumor, which tends to the defamation of our neighbour; but may rather rejoyce in their good report, diſliking all flatterers, tale-bearers, and ſuch other perſons as do uſually raiſe and ſpread ill rumours.

That we may not be pragmatical, or cenſorious in the affairs of others, where we are not concer-
1 Pet. 4. 15. ned, *but may ſtudy to be quiet*, and to do our own
2 Th. 4. 11 Mat. 7. 5. buſineſs; being careful to *pull the beam out of our*
Phil. 2. 3. *own eyes, before we find fault with the mote in others. Doing nothing through ſtrife or vain glory, but in lowlineſs of mind, each one eſteeming of others, better then of himſelf.*

Rom. 12. That we may be lowly in our own eyes: *Not*
3. *thinking of our ſelves more highly than we ought to think*; that we may be careful by all good means to advance our own reputations; valuing *a*
Pro. 12. 1. *good Name above great riches*; labouring to be ſuch
Eph. 5. 15 as we would ſeem to be, *walking circumſpectly, not as fools, but as wiſe*; approving our ſelves unto him who trieth the hearts: *Avoiding all ap-*
1 Th. 5. 22 Phil. 4. 8. *pearance of evil*, and *following matters of good report.*

The

The tenth Commandment does require a sincere and upright heart to our selves and our neighbours. The 10th *Command.*

By this we are directed to pray, That God would cleanse our souls from that evil concupiscence so natural unto them, endowing them with a sincere inclination to all the duties of Charity.

That he would make us more watchful over our own senses and hearts, in keeping out, and extinguishing all those evil fancies and imaginations which may arise within us. And to this purpose, that he would bestow upon us *the whole Armour of God, whereby we may cast down all fleshly reasonings and imaginations, and bring into subjection every thought unto the obedience of himself.* 2 Cor. 10. 5.

That we may make a Covenant with our thoughts, not to please our selves in the speculation of any sins, nor to think of them without loathing and detestation: That we may never make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof; that our hearts may be dis-engaged from the world. 1 Cor. 7. 29, 30.

That he would give unto us the Spirit of wisdom, to discern in what things we are most obnoxious to temptation; and to be most vigilant over our hearts, in respect of those particulars: that we may *keep our hearts with all diligence.* Pro. 4. 13.

That we may never envy our neighbours well-being, *nor rejoyce at his sufferings.* Job 31. 29.

CHAP. XXII.

Of the Graces that are more particularly required in the Gospel.

NExt to the Precepts of the Law, we are to consider the duties which the Gospel does require of us; namely, that we should *repent* and *believe*: That we should be careful to *perform*, to *continue* and *encrease* in all those particular duties and graces which are comprehended under those two general heads.

So that from hence we are directed to pray,

1. For *Repentance*: That since God hath *in love to our souls*, vouchsafed unto us in his Gospel this priviledg of Repentance, which the Covenant of Works did not admit of; that he would
Act. 11.18 also give us hearts for it, *granting us repentance unto life*: That he would convince us of the danger, and folly, and pollution of our sins, enabling us to mourn over them; bestowing upon us *broken and contrite spirits*: Dissolving our stony
Psal. 51.17 hearts into that *godly sorrow which worketh repen-*
2 Cor. 7. 10. *tance to salvation, not to be repented of*: That we
Lam. 3.40 may *search and try our ways, and turn unto the*
Mat. 3. 8. *Lord*: *Bringing forth fruits meet for repentance*:
Jam. 4. 8. Labouring *to draw nigh unto God, by cleansing our hands, and purifying our hearts.*

2. For *Faith*: That God would discover to us the great need of a Saviour; and since he hath
Ro. 3.25. set *forth his Son to be a Propitiation through faith*
Heb. 5. 9. *in his blood, and hath made him the Author of eternal*

eternal ſalvation to all that obey him. That he would win over our ſouls to an earneſt endeavour of acquaintance with him, and high eſteem of him.

That God, *who commanded the light to ſhine out of darkneſs, would ſhine into our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledg of the glory of God in the face of Jeſus Chriſt:* That he would make us more eſpecially inquiſitive after the ſaving, experimental knowledg of him, in whom are laid up *the treaſures of wiſdom and knowledg,* whom to know is perfect wiſdom, and eternal life. 2 Cor. 4. 6. Col. 2. 3.

That he would *count us worthy of his holy calling, and fulfil in us all the good pleaſure of his goodneſs, and the work of faith with power: That the Name of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt may be glorified in us, and we in him.* That Chriſt may *dwell in our hearts by Faith, that we may be rooted and grounded in love; may be able to comprehend with all Saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Chriſt, which paſſeth knowledg, that we may be filled with all the fulneſs of God.* 2 Theſ. 1. 11, 12. Eph. 3. 17.

That we may truly value *the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindneſs towards us through Chriſt Jeſus:* Glorying in his Goſpel, as being *the power of God to ſalvation: Counting all things but loſs and dung for the excellency of the knowledg of Chriſt Jeſus, that we may win him, and be found in him, not having our own righteouſneſs which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Chriſt.* Eph. 2. 7. Rom. 1. 16. Phil. 3. 8.

That

That in all estates and conditions we may learn to *live by faith.*

1. In regard of our *temporal* life, with all the various uncertainties of it, whether *Prosperity*, that by this grace of faith we may keep our hearts in an holy frame of humility, meekness, dis-engagement from the world, and all outward confidences; or *Adversity*, wherein this grace may serve to sweeten our afflictions, to support us under them, teaching us to profit by them, to bear them meekly, to triumph over them, assuring the heart, that nothing befalls us but by the disposal of Gods Providence, who is infinitely Wise, and Merciful, and Faithful.

2. In regard of *Spiritual* life, both for our *Justification*, that we may not expect it from our
Phil. 3.9. own services or graces: *Not having our own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*
2 Cor. 5. And so for the life of *Sanctification*; that we may
15 Phil. 1.27 *not live unto our selves, but unto him who dyed for us, and rose again:* That our *conversation may be as becometh the Gospel of Christ, standing fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.* Always remembring, that we are
1 Cor. 6. not our own, but *bought with a price*, and there-
20. fore should make it our business to glorifie Christ *with our bodies and spirits, which are his.*

Jam. 2. 20 That he would work in us such a *lively faith*, as may make us rich in good works, that we may
2 Cor. 9. demean our selves *as becomes our professed sub-*
13. *jection to the Gospel of Christ; walking worthy of*
Eph. 4.2. Chap. 5.8. *that vocation wherewith we are called*, as becomes

children

children of the light: Being *holy in all manner of conversation: Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ; exercising our selves unto godliness:* walking uprightly, *according to the truth of the Gospel, diligently following every good work:* Shewing out of *a good conversation, our works with meekness and wisdom:* That we may *adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour in all things:* Considering that *we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, that we should walk in them: Having our conversation in Heaven; walking worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in all good works.* That every one of us *who professeth the Name of Christ, may depart from iniquity:* Because for *this reason was the Gospel preached to those that are dead in sin, that they may live according to God in the Spirit.*

1 Pet. 1. 15. Ro. 13. 14 1 Tim. 4. 7 Gal. 2. 14. 1 Tim. 5. 10 Jam. 3. 13 Tit. 2. 10. Eph. 2. 10 Phi. 3. 20 Gal. 1. 10. 2 Tim. 2. 19. 1 Pet. 4. 6.

That we may *give all diligence to add to our faith, vertue; and to vertue, knowledg; and to knowledg, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity; that these things being in us, and abounding, we may not be barren and unfruitful in the knowledg of our Lord Jesus Christ,* but may hereby clear up unto our selves the evidences of our calling and election.

2 Pet. 1. 5, 8.

That we may *deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and that glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purifie unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works:* considering

Tit. 2. 12, 13, 14.

1 Thes. 1. 7. ing that *he shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty Angels, in flaming fire, to take vengeance on those that obey not his Gospel, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, when he shall come to be glorified in his Saints, and to be admired of* Heb. 10. 28. *all them that believe in that day:* For if *he that despised* Moses *Law, died without mercy, under two or three witnesses; of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the Covenant an unholy thing, and hath done despite to the Spirit of Grace?*

1 Pet. 5. 10. That *the God of all Grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, would make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us.*

Col. 1. 23. That we may *continue in the faith, grounded and* Col. 2. 7. *setled, and not be moved away from the hope of the* Heb. 12. 1, 2. *Gospel, being rooted, and built up, and established in the faith: laying aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us: and running with patience the* Heb. 10. 23. *race that is set before us: Holding fast our profession* Joh. 15. 7. *without wavering; that we may abide in Christ, and his words may abide in us:* Continuing in the things 2 Tim. 3. 14. *which we have learned:* Being *faithful unto the* Rev. 2. 10 *death, that then he may bestow upon us a crown of life,*

That the *Word of Christ may dwell in us richly, in* Col. 3. 16. *all wisdom:* That we may *grow in grace, and in the* 2 Pet. 3. 18 Phil. 1. 11 *knowledg of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:* Being *filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.* That 2 Tim. 2. 1 we may *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

That

That *having fought a good fight, and finiſhed our courſe, and kept the faith, we may receive the crown of righteouſneſs, which at the laſt day the Lord, the righteous Judg, will beſtow upon all thoſe that love his appearing.* That he would *carry us on through faith unto ſalvation.* 2 Tim. 4. 7, 8.

And becauſe, when we have reckoned all the duties we can, we ſhall leave out many particulars, therefore for the ſupply of thoſe which we cannot ſpecifie, we may uſe ſome general form anſwerable to that exhortation of the *Apoſtle*, that *whatſoever things are true, whatſoever things are honeſt, whatſoever things are juſt, whatſoever things are pure, whatſoever things are lovely, whatſoever things are of good report, if there be any vertue, and if there be any praiſe, that we may think of, and do theſe things.* Phil. 4. 8.

Being *blameleſs, and harmleſs, the ſons of God, without rebuke in the midſt of a crooked and perverſe nation, among whom we may ſhine as lights in the world.* Phil. 2. 15

CHAP. XXIII.

Of Petitioning for Temporal *good things, Proviſion and Protection.*

NExt to *ſpiritual* good things, we are permitted to pray for thoſe matters which concern our *Temporal* welfare, anſwerable to that Petition in the Lords Prayer, *Give us this day our daily*

daily bread; under the expreſſion of *daily bread* we are to underſtand all thoſe particulars that are either neceſſary or convenient for our natural life, in reſpect.

Both of { Proviſion for / Protection of } us in our { Souls. / Bodies. / Callings. / Names. / Friends. / Eſtates. }

1. For our *Souls*; that God would be pleaſed to bleſs and continue to us the uſe of our wits and memories; that he would give us power to enjoy theſe temporal bleſſings; filling us with Acts 14. 17 *gladneſs of heart*, with peace and ſerenity of mind, expelling from us all unneceſſary cares, earthly ſorrows, unprofitable dejections.

2. For our *Bodies*; That he would continue to us our health and ſtrength, the free uſe of our ſenſes and limbs, ſupplying, directing, bleſſing us in the uſe of all ſuch means, as ſhall conduce to our preſervation and well-being.

3. For our *Callings*; That he would furniſh us with wiſdom and abilities ſuitable to our ſeveral vocations, making us diligent and induſtrious in them, whereby we may be enabled in our places to promote his glory, and to be inſtrumental for 1 Theſ. 2. 10 the good of others; being *juſt towards all men*, and *ready to ſerve one another in love*. And becauſe without his bleſſing it will be *in vain for us to riſe up early, and to ſit up late, and to eat the bread of carefulneſs*; therefore we ſhould likewiſe pray, that he would bleſs our endeavours, and *all that we ſet our hands unto: Proſpering the work of our hand upon us.* Gal 5. 13. Pſal. 127. 2. Deu. 28. 8 Pſ. 90. 17

4. For

4. For our *Names*, that he would take care of our reputations, reſtraining others from reproaching and ſlandering of us, and reſtraining us from ſcandalous ſins, and appearances of evil, that he would teach us to behave our ſelves ſo wiſely and circumſpectly, that we may bring credit to our perſons and profeſſions, growing in favour both with God and man. That he would deliver us from thoſe *whoſe teeth are ſpears and arrows, and their tongue a ſharp ſword.* Pſal. 57. 4

5. For our *Friends*; that he would raiſe up for us ſuch as may be kindly affectioned to us, bleſſing us in all our near relations, kindred, families, friends, neighbours, acquaintance, continuing to us the help and comfort that we have by them.

6. For our *Eſtates*; in reſpect, 1. Of *Liberty*, that he would ſtill preſerve us in our wonted freedom, from bondage, captivity, impriſonment. 2. That he would be pleaſed to reſtore and continue that precious bleſſing of *Peace*, both in our Nations, Towns, Families, Converſations. 3. That he would make us *Plenteous* in the *fruit of our ground, and in the encreaſe of our cattel:* Crowning the year with his goodneſs, opening to us *his good treaſures, the heavens*; putting a force and efficacy into their influences, and fruitfulneſs into the earth; that it may yeeld us *the ſtaff of bread, to ſtrengthen our hearts*; that he would always ſupply us with *food convenient for us*; ſo much as may with ſobriety ſerve to convey us through this earthly Pilgrimage. Deu. 28. 4 Verſe 11. Verſe 12. Hoſ. 2. 21. Pſ. 104. 15 Pro. 30. 8.

In brief, that he would be pleaſed to bleſs unto us the things we have, and beſtow upon us the things we want.

And

And as we ſhould beſeech God to *provide* for us, ſo likewiſe to *protect* us in all theſe reſpects, more eſpecially according to thoſe divers ſeaſons wherein our prayers are to be framed, whether for the *Day* or *Night*; for *the Day is his, the Night*
Pſ. 74. 16. Pſal. 119. 91 *alſo is his; he hath prepared the light, and the Sun: They continue ſtill according to his Ordinances; for*
Pſal. 104. 30. *all things ſerve him.* 'Tis he that *turneth darkneſs into light, and renews the face of the earth.*
Pſa. 63. 2. 1. For our *Morning*-Addreſſes, *O God, thou art my God, early will I ſeek thee; my ſoul thirſteth for thee, my fleſh alſo longeth after thee:* We ſhould herein petition for his *protection* of us the day following, that he would watch over us for good, by his Fatherly providence; and defend us from all thoſe ſins and dangers to which we are expoſed, that we may not be enſnared by any of thoſe temptations which we ſhall meet with: that he
Pſa. 91. 11 would *give his Angels charge over us, to keep us in all our ways.*

That he would be pleaſed ſo far to afford us his aſſiſtance and direction, that we may glorifie his Name both in our *Thoughts*, *Words* and *Actions*; and to this end, that he would put good meditations into our minds, & holy deſires into our
Pſa. 51. 6. hearts, *truth into our inward parts*; that he would *ſet a watch before our mouths, and keep the door of our lips*, that we offend not with our tongues:
Pſa. 141. 3. that *no corrupt communication may proceed from us, but ſuch as is good to the uſe of edifying, and may*
Eph. 4. 29 *adminiſter grace to the hearers:* that amongſt our other buſineſſes and employments, we may not forget that one thing which is moſt neceſſary:

But

But may be more especially careful about all such matters as may prepare us for our appearance before him, and further us in that reckoning which we are to make at the great day of accounts.

That we may *walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise:* Considering that *God is about our paths, and is acquainted with all our ways: Every thing being naked and open* unto the eyes of that dreadful Majesty, before whom all the world must be judged at the last day: That we may *redeem the time, because the days are evil:* Improving the present opportunity of our health, peace, and prosperity, unto the best advantage of our spiritual well-being, in this our day considering the things that belong unto our peace. Eph. 5. 15. Psa. 139. 3 Heb. 4. 13 Eph. 5. 16

That we may be wise and modest in our carriage, humble and moderate in our passions, temperate and sober in our diet, diligent and cheerful in our business.

That he would give us *success* in all our honest undertakings, make us wise and prosperous in them: That the *glorious Majesty of the Lord our God may be upon us, prospering the work of our hands.* So *Abrahams* servant, *O Lord my God, I beseech thee send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto me*, &c. It is he alone that must *work all our works in us*, and for us: *The way of man being not in himself; neither is it in him that walketh, to direct his steps.* That he would therefore lead us in the way that we should go; teaching us to make straight paths to our feet; and the rather, because we are now faln under a crooked and perverse generation: that he would counsel & guide us in all our doubts and difficulties. Psal. 90. 17. Gen. 24. 12. Isa. 26. 12 Jer. 10. 23

That he would enable us every day to proceed ſomwhat forward in our ſpiritual growth, to get the maſtery over our own evil hearts & affections: To renew and practiſe all thoſe holy purpoſes and reſolutions which we have formerly made; that proceeding from grace to grace, we may at length come to be perfect in Chriſt Jeſus.

2. In our *Evening*-prayers we ſhould likewiſe petition him for his peculiar protection over us
Pſal. 42. 8 the night following, becauſe he *hath commanded his loving-kindneſs in the day-time; therefore in the night ſhall our ſong be with him, and our prayer unto the God of our life.*

It is the frailty of our natures, to need a continual reparation of our ſtrength by ſleep. But God is *the keeper of Iſrael, who neither ſlumbereth*
Pſa. 121. 4 *nor ſleepeth*, and therefore we ſhould beſeech him,
Pſal. 34. 7 that he would *wake for us*, watch over us for
Pſal. 91. 5. good. Commanding his *Angels to encamp round about us*, that we may not be *afraid of any terrors*
Pſal. 4. 8. *by night*, but may *lye down in peace, and ſleep, and*
Pſal. 127. 2. *that he would make us to dwell in ſafety:* That he *who gives his beloved ſleep*, would refreſh us with quiet reſt; that we may *hear of his loving-kind-*
Pſa. 143. 8 *neſs betimes in the morning, for in him is our truſt.*

That in the time of our waking, he would fill our ſouls with the meditations of himſelf; that he would teach us to *commune with our own hearts*
Pſal. 139. 12. *upon our beds, and be ſtill.* To remember his All-ſeeing eyes, that *the darkneſs hideth not from him, but the night ſhineth as the day, the darkneſs and light to him are both alike.*

That though perhaps we have fooliſhly waſted the

the day paſt, amongſt the many other days of our lives, which he hath allotted for our repentance and amendment; yet that he would ſtill be graciouſly pleaſed out of his free bounty to continue his former protection and care over us, to refreſh us with ſufficient reſt, that thereby we may be enabled to do him better ſervice in the duties of the following day: Expreſſing our deſires of *commending our ſpirits* and bodies *into his hands who hath redeemed us, and is the Lord God of truth.* Pſal. 31. 5.

That by our ſleep this night, we may be put in mind of our laſt ſleep by death, of *the days of darkneſs, which ſhall be many*; of that time which will ſhortly come, when theſe our bodies ſhall be ſtretched on a bed of earth; that *when a few days are come, we ſhall go into the place whence we ſhall not return.* That many go well to bed, and never riſe again till the day of Judgment; that every day which paſſeth over us, does bring us nearer to our laſt day, our diſſolution, and that dreadful Judgment, when we muſt give a ſtrict account of all our actions, and receive an eternal doom, according to the works which we have done: that theſe conſiderations may make us walk warily, as being in continual expectation of the time of our departure: that we may labour to grow better, as we grow older: that the nearer we come to our latter ends, the nearer we may approach to him and his glory. Eccl. 11. 8 Job 16. 22

That if he hath determined to take us out of the world, before we have another opportunity of approaching unto him in this holy duty, that then he would be pleaſed to pardon our ſins, and ſave our ſouls.

CHAP. XXIV.

Concerning Intercession, more General, both Ordinary and Occasional.

NExt to praying for our selves, we should likewise be careful to *intercede* for others, because we are all fellow-members of one body, and *the members should have the same care one of another.*

1 Cor. 12. 25.

These intercessions are either { General. Special. Particular.

Ps. 122. 6. 1. *General.* For the whole Catholick Church Militant here on earth, dispersed over the face of Eph. 6. 18 the whole world: That peace and mercy may be upon the *Israel* of God, that he would *give his* 2 Thes. 3. 1, 2. *Gospel a free* and an *effectual passage*, prospering it where it is, and sending it where it is not: *That it may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men:* Isa. 49. 16, 17. That his *delight may be in Mount Sion:* That *he would grave her on the palms of his hands, and let her walls be continually before him, that her builders may make haste, and that he would cause her destroyers, and such as would lay her waste, to depart from her:* That he would be merciful unto all his Elect Ps. 67. 1, 2. people, *and bless them, and cause his face to shine upon them, that his way may be known upon earth, and his saving health among all Nations.*

That he would enlarge the borders of Christs Act. 2. 47. Kingdom, and *add daily to the Church such as shall* Luk 1. 79 *be saved: Enlightning those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and guiding their feet into the way of peace.*

And

And here we may derive arguments from those many promises that are made in Scripture to this purpose: That he would give unto Christ *the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.* Psal. 2. 8.

That *the mountain of the Lords house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all Nations shall flow unto it.* Isa. 2. 2.

That *the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledg of the Lord, as the waters cover the Sea.* Isa. 11. 9.

That the *worm* Jacob *shall thresh the mountains, and make the hills as chaff:* Speaking of the Kingdom of Christ under the Gospel, Isa. 41. 14 15.

That *all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.* Isa. 52. 50.

That *all the Kingdoms of the world shall become the Kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ.* Rev. 11. 15

And to this purpose, that he would afford the means that are requisite to thisend, that he would inform the ignorant, reclaim the erroneous, encourage the backward, strengthen the weak, bind up the broken, succour the tempted, comfort the sorrowful, restore the sick, deliver the prisoners, relieve the needy, break every yoke of the oppressor, and hasten the coming of his Kingdom.

That he would sanctifie the several gifts distributed in the Church, *for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the Ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledg of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joyned together, and compacted by that which every* Eph. 4. 12 16.

joynt supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, may encrease and edifie it self in love,

2. *Special* Intercession { Ordinary. / Occasional. } may be either

1. In *Ordinary*, or common, we are to pray for the Nations uncalled, whether { Jews. / Infidels. }

1. For *Jews*; that God would *perswade* Sem *to dwell in the tents of* Japhet; that he would not forget his old loving-kindness to his first-born, the seed of *Abraham his friend*; that he would *raise up the Tabernacle of* David, *which is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof*; and *make Jerusalem a praise upon the whole earth*: that he would *do good in his good pleasure unto Sion*; *and build up the walls of Jerusalem*: that he would *open their eyes to see him whom they have pierced*: that the *merit*, and not the *guilt of his blood may be upon them and their children.*

Gen. 9. 27
Am. 9. 11.
Ps. 51. 18.
Zac. 12. 10
Mat. 27. 25.

2. For the uncalled *Gentiles*, whom he hath decreed to salvation, who are without the pale of the visible Church, that God would visit them with the day-spring from on high, send forth his everlasting Gospel amongst them, and *bring in the fulness of the Gentiles*, and make us all one sheep-fold, under one shepherd, according to those many promises which he hath made to this purpose.

Ro. 11. 25 *See before.*

Amongst the Nations that are *called*, we are to pray more especially for them to whom we are allied by Neighbourhood, League, Religion, *&c.* But chiefly for *those of the household of faith*, the Nations and Families that call upon his Name.

Gal. 6. 10.

Let

Let all thoſe that put their truſt in thee, rejoyce; let them ſhout for joy, becauſe thou defendeſt them; let them alſo that love thy Name, be joyful in thee; for thou, Lord, wilt bleſs the righteous; with favour wilt thou compaſs him as with a ſhield. Pſal. 5. 11, 12.

O continue thy loving-kindneſs to them that know thee, and thy righteouſneſs to the upright in heart. Pſal. 36. 10.

Let them that ſeek thee, rejoice and be glad in thee: let ſuch as love thy ſalvation, ſay continually, The Lord be magnified. Pſal. 40. 16.

Do good, O Lord, unto thoſe that be good, and to them that be upright in their hearts; and let peace be upon Iſrael. But above any other, we are to pray more eſpecially for *our own Nation*, the land of our Nativity; to which, as we have a nearer relation, ſo ought we to have a greater affection: That God would pardon our crying ſins, purge away our corruptions, heal our diſtempers: That he would remove the Judgments under which we ſuffer, and prevent thoſe which we have moſt juſtly deſerved: That he would continue to us the Mercies we enjoy, and beſtow upon us the bleſſings we want.

That he would teach us to obſerve and underſtand his meanings towards us in all his publick diſpenſations, that we may accordingly apply our ſelves to meet him in his ways.

That he would ſanctifie unto us every condition, and make us wiſe by the examples of others; that we may be willing to *learn righteouſneſs, when his Judgments are abroad in the world: To hear his rod, & who hath appointed it*; as knowing, that every *judgment* hath as wel a *noiſe* to inform, as a *blow* to *correct*; and that if we will not amend by the *ſound* Iſa. 26 9. Mic. 6. 9.

of them upon *others*, we shall feel the *smart* of them our *selves*.

These are some of the general heads, which *ordinarily* may be insisted upon, and enlarged in our Intercessions for National Mercies: upon occasion of any extraordinary want or judgment, we ought in a more particular manner to frame our petitions according to the present condition of a people in regard of any publick necessity; but chiefly in respect of those three principal Judgments, Warr, Famine, Pestilence.

Against *Warr.*

1. In times of *Warr*, that He would take care for the Interest of his own People and Cause, in the midst of all confusions: That he would *behold the tears of those that are oppressed, and have no comfor-*
Isa. 25. 4. *ter*: that he would be *strength to the poor, and to the needy in their distress; a refuge from the storm, a sha-dow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones*
Isa. 4. 5. *is as a storm against the wall:* That *upon all the glory*
Psal. 37. *there may be a defence:* That he would *consider their*
7, 8. *troubles, and know their souls in adversity*, and not shut them up in the hand of their enemies: That they may not any longer hear the sound of *the*
Jer. 4. 19. *Trumpet, and the alarm of Warr.*

That he would remove that Judgment from
2 Sam. 14 them, and let them not *fall into the hands of them*
14. whose mercies are cruel. He can *make warr to*
Psal. 49. 9 *cease in all the world, breaking the bow, and cutting the spears in sunder*; and he hath promised a time
Isa. 2. 4. when men shall *beat their swords into plow-shares, & their spears into pruning-hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.* He is the great Peace-maker, the
Col. 1. 26. Prince of Peace, who did *find out a way hidden*

from

from ages and generations, to reconcile the sinful world unto himself. He can bring light out of darkness, and settlement out of confusion. He can with a word of his mouth rebuke and allay the tempestuous winds and seas. He can *still the raging of the seas, the noise of the waves, and the madness of the people.* He can *create peace*, where there is no pre-existent disposition or preparation towards it. He can make the wrath of man turn to his praise, and when he pleases, he can restrain it: That he would *think thoughts of peace towards us, and not of evil, to give us an expected end.* Psal. 65. 7. Jer. 19. 11

That he would repair the desolations that have been hereby occasioned: That he would *sow* the waste places *with the seed of man and of beast*; and as he hath formerly *watched over them, to pluck up and to destroy*; so he would now *watch over them to build and to plant.* Jer. 31. 27

To this purpose the whole Book of *Psalms* does abound with many petitions & complaints.

O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish thou the just. Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their trust in thee, from such as rise up against them. Let not those that wait on thee, be ashamed. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles. Psal. 7. 9. Psal. 17. 7 Psal. 25. 3, 22

O God, thou hast cast us off; thou hast been displeased, O turn thy self to us again. Thou hast made the land to tremble, thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof, for it shaketh. Thou hast shewed thy people hard things; thou hast made them to drink the wine of astonishment. Give us help from trouble, for vain is the help of man. Psal. 60. 1, 2. Verse 11.

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let them also that hate him, flye before him. Psal. 68. 1.

Psal. 74. 19, 22. *O deliver not the soul of thy Turtle unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the Congregation of the poor for ever. O let not the oppressed return ashamed; let the poor and needy praise thy Name. Arise, O God, plead thine own cause, &c.*

Psal. 79. 4, 5 *We are become a reproach to our Neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us. How long, Lord, wilt thou be angry for ever? Shall thy jealousie burn like fire? O remember not against us our former iniquities, let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us, for we are brought very low. Help us O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name deliver us, & purge away our sins for thy Names sake.*

Psal. 86. 14. *O God, the proud are risen again me, and the assemblies of violent men have fought against my soul, and have not set thee before them. But thou, O Lord, art our God, full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me: give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine*

Psa. 94. 2. *handmaid. Shew me some token for good, that they which hate me, may see it, and be ashamed, because thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me.*

Psal. 102. 13. *Arise, O Lord, and have mercy upon Sion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set-time is come.*

1. Against Famine. 2. In times of *Famine*. We should pray that our *land may yeeld us bread without scarceness*. That he

Deut. 8. 9. would not send upon us *the evil arrows of famine*,

Eze. 5. 16. Hos. 2. 9. *nor break our staff of bread, nor take away our corn*

Amos 4. 6 *in the time thereof*; *nor afflict us with cleanness of*

Isa. 9. 20. *teeth*, when men shall *snatch on the right hand, and be hungry, and shall eat on the left hand, and shall not be satisfied, but every man shall eat the flesh of his own*

Lam. 4. 9. *arm*. When we shall *pine away, and be stricken through*

through for want of the fruits of the earth; when *we shall eat bread by weight and with care, and drink water by measure and with astonishment*: When *the Land shall mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the Heaven*: When the *Husbandman shall be ashamed, and the Vine-dresser shall howl, because the harvest of the field is perished*: *The fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the Vine; the labour of the Olive shall fail, and the fields shall yeild no meat*: *the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls*: When we shall *sow much, and bring in little*: When we shall *eat, and not have enough, drink, and not be filled; cloath our selves, and not be warm.*

Ez. 46. 16
Hos. 4. 3.
Joel 1. 11.
Hab. 3. 17.
Hag. 1. 6.

That he would according to his promise, *abundantly bless our provision, and satisfie our poor with bread*: That our *Garners may be full and plenteous, affording all manner of store*: That he would *hear the Heavens, and let them hear the Earth, and the Earth hear the Corn, and the Wine, and the Oyl, and that they may hear his people.*

Ps. 132. 15
Ps. 144. 13
Hos. 2. 21. 22.

Now because Famine is usually occasioned, either by *immoderate rain* or *drought*, therefore in our intercessions against this National Judgment, we may frame our Petitions more immediately against each of these, as necessity shall require.

1. Against *immoderate rain*: That God would remember the Covenant which he hath made, & though our *wickedness be very great upon the earth*, so that he might justly *repent that he hath made us*, and now again resolve *to destroy us from the face of the earth*, yet he hath promised *that he will not any more cut off all flesh by the waters of a flood, neither*

Gen. 6. 5, 6.
Gen. 9. 11

shall

shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

Joel 2.23 That he would *give us the former and the latter*
Pro. 28. 3 *rain moderately*, and not punish us with a *sweeping rain which leaveth no food.*

Gen. 7. 11 'Tis he alone, by whom *the windows of heaven are*
Job 5. 10. *opened*, who *giveth rain upon the earth*, *and sendeth*
Isa. 50. 3. *waters upon the fields*; who *clotheth the heavens with blackness*, *and maketh sackcloth their covering*: Who
Am. 5. 8. *calleth for the waters of the sea*, *and poureth them out*
Job 36. 27 *upon the face of the earth*; He *maketh small the drops of water*; *they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof*, *which the clouds do drop*, *and distill upon men abundantly*: *He covereth the light with clouds*, *and commandeth it not to shine*: *He commandeth the clouds*
Ps. 78. 23. *from above*, *and openeth the doors of heaven.*

That he would so order all those things which
Ps. 67. 6, 7 are at his disposal, as that *the earth may yield her encrease*, *and all the ends of the earth may fear him.*

2. Against *Drought*. 2. Against *Drought*; That he would *open to us*
Deut. 28. 12. *the good treasures of heaven*, *and give rain to our land in its season*, *and bless the labour of our hands.* He is *the Father of the rain*, *and does beget the drops of dew*;
Job 38. 28 *the bottles of heaven* are at his command, to open &
Verse 37. shut them as he pleases: He *binds up the waters in*
Job 26. 8. *thick clouds*, *and the cloud is not rent under them.* 'Tis
Hag. 1. 10. he that does *stay the heavens over us from dew*, *and the*
Amo. 4. 7. *earth from his fruits.* Who doth *with-hold the rain from us*, *causing it to rain upon one City*, *and not upon*
Joel 1. 12. *another*: It is by his command that *the Vine-tree is dried up*, *and the fig-tree languisheth*, *and all the trees of the field are withered*: The *seed is rotten under the clods*, *the garners are laid desolate*, *the barns are bro-*
Verse 17. *ken down*; *for the corn is withered*: *the beasts groan*, *and*

the

the herds of Cattel are perplexed, because they have no pasture, and the flocks of sheep are made desolate. Verse 18.

'Tis at *his command that the clouds do not rain upon us:* he makes *the heavens over us to be brass, and the earth under us to be iron, and the rain of our land to be powder and dust:* he causes *the land to mourn, and the herbs of every field to wither:* When *the ground is chapt for want of rain;* when *the plowmen are ashamed, and cover their heads;* when *the wild asses do stand in the high places, and snuff up the wind like Dragons, and their eyes do fail because there is no grass.* Isa. 5. 6. Deut. 28. 23, 24. Jer. 12. 4. chap. 14. 4. Verse 6.

And therefore unto him it is that we must make our addresses, for help and supply in all such exigences: That when *heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because of our sins against him; Yet if we shall pray unto him, and confess his Name, and return from our sins when he afflicts us, That then he would hear in heaven, and forgive the sins of his servants, and teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain unto the land which he hath bestowed upon them for an inheritance.* 1 King. 8. 35, 36.

Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles, that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O Lord, our God? therefore we will wait upon thee, for thou hast made all these things. Jer. 14. 22

That he would open the windows of heaven, and *cause the rain to come down in his season, and let there be showers of blessing, making grass to grow for the cattel, and herbs for the service of men:* That we may *fear the Lord our God, who giveth us rain, both the former and the latter in its season, reserving unto us the appointed weeks of harvest.* Ezek. 34. 26. Psal. 104. 14. Jer. 5. 24.

3. In times of *Pestilence*: That he would (according 3. Against *Pestilence.*

Psal. 91. 3 ing to his purpose) *deliver us from the noisom Pesti-*
5, 6. *lence: that we may not be afraid of terror by night,*
nor for the arrow that flyeth by day, nor for the pesti-
lence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction
Verse 10. *that walketh at noon-day; that no evil befall us, nor*
any plague come nigh our dwellings: That he would
1 Chron. *command his destroying Angel to put up his sword a-*
21, 27. *gain into the sheath thereof.*
1 King. 8. That he would teach us to *see the plague of our*
38. *own hearts*, and to return unto him with unfeigned
repentance, that he may return unto us in mercy &
compassion, and pardon our sins, & heal our land.
Jer. 47. 6. *O thou sword of the Lord, how long will it be ere*
thou be quiet? put up thy self into thy scabbard, rest,
and be still.
Job 6. 4. That *the arrows of the Almighty* may not be any
longer *within us*, nor *the poyson thereof drink up our*
spirit.
Jer. 9. 21. That *death may not come up into our windows, nor*
enter into our palaces, to cut off the children from with-
out, and the young men from the streets; that he would
Isa. 14. 23 not *sweep us away with the besom of destruction*; but
Ha. 57. 18. would be pleased now at length *to heal us, and to*
restore comfort unto us, and to our mourners.
Ps. 90. 7, 8 *We are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath*
we are troubled; thou hast set our iniquities before
thee, and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance;
return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee con-
Ver. 13. 14 *cerning thy servants. O satisfie us early with thy mer-*
cies, that we may rejoyce and be glad all our days.

For the better strengthning of our faith and fervency in our intercessions for any national mercy, we may back our requests with some of those Arguments which the Scripture does afford to this purpose.

God

God hath ſtiled himſelf *a refuge for the oppreſſed, a refuge in time of trouble, and that he will never forſake them that ſeek him.* Pſ. 9. 9, 12

He is *a preſent help in trouble*, and hath proclaim'd himſelf to be a God that *hath pleaſure in the proſperity of his ſervants.* Pſal. 46. 1 Pſal. 35. 27

He hath promiſed, that *the poor ſhall not always be forgotten; the patient abiding of the meek ſhall not periſh for ever. But he will redeem their ſouls from deceit and violence; he heareth the poor, and deſpiſeth not the priſoners.* Pſal. 9. 18 Pſal. 72. 14. Pſa. 69. 33

He hath ſaid, that *he will not always* contend with the children of men, *leſt their hearts ſhould faint, and their ſpirits fail within them.* But *when their power is quite gone*, then it ſhall repent him for his ſervants; when there is *no other to help or uphold, then the arm of the Lord ſhall bring ſalvation.* Iſa. 57. 16. Deut. 32. 36. Iſa. 63. 5.

He hath aſſured us, that if we *commit our way unto the Lord, and truſt in him, he will bring it to paſs: That the meek ſhall inherit the earth, and delight themſelves in the abundance of peace: That the upright ſhall not be aſhamed in the evil time, and in the days of Famine they ſhall be ſatisfied: That though the wicked doth watch the righteous, and ſeek to ſlay him, yet the Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. But if we wait on the Lord, and keep his way, he will exalt us to inherit the land. That the ſalvation of the righteous, is of the Lord, who is their ſtrength in time of trouble. The Lord ſhall help them, and deliver them; he ſhall deliver them from the wicked, and ſave them, becauſe they truſt in him.* Pſal. 37. 5 Verſe 11. Verſe 19 Verſe 32. Verſe 33. Verſe 34. Verſe 39. Verſe 40.

He hath promiſed, that *the rod of the wicked ſhall not always reſt upon the lot of the righteous.* Pſ. 125. 3.

The

The Scripture is very copious in such expressions as may afford Arguments to this purpose, besides those that were mentioned before in the fourth Chapter, which are properly reducible to this place.

CHAP. XXV.

Of Particular Intercession for our several Relations.

Particular Intercession may be distinguished into two sorts { Ordinary. / Occasional.

By *Ordinary*, I understand our prayers for those particular persons whom we are bound in our common and usual course to remember, as we should all those to whom we are tied by any near relation, whether of { Order. / Friendship, or Enmity. / Neighbourhood, or Converse.

See fifth Com. before.

1. For the relation of *Order*. These are either publick and *Political*, or private and *Oeconomical*.

1. Concerning our *Publick* relations: the Apostle does enjoin us to pray *for Kings, and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*: that he would give unto them wise and *understanding hearts, to judge their people, & to discern between good and bad*. That they may be a *terror* only *to evil-doers*, but an encouragement to those that do well. That he would (according to his promise) make them *nursing fathers*,

1 Tim. 2. 2

1 Kin. 3. 9

Ro. 13. 3.

Isa. 46. 23

Church and people, that they may prove friends to his friends, and enemies to his enemies. Considering, that *those who rule over men, must be just, ruling in the fear of the Lord.* 2 Sam. 23 3

That they may *know the God of their fathers, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind*; that it may be well with them, and their posterity after them. 1 Chron. 28. 9

That he would make them believe, and to consider, that 'tis not only their *duty*, but their *honour*, and their *interest*, to promote the power and the reputation of Religion.

For all publick *Counsellors* and *Judges*, that he would make them wise & upright, & successful in the discharge of all those difficult businesses that they are called unto; that they may not *turn judgment into wormwood*, by unjust decrees, nor into *vinegar by long delays*: that he would be unto them both a *Sun* and a *Shield*, a Sun to *direct* them, & a shield to *protect* them in all their ways, 'tis he alone who is able *to instruct Magistrates, and teach Senators wisdom*; that he would remove from them all negligence, cowardize, prejudice, self ends, or whatsoever may hinder them in the free & equal administration of justice: that *judgment may run down as a river, and righteousness as a mighty stream.* Amos 5. 7 Prov. 10. 26 Psal. 48. 11 Psal. 105. 22 Am. 5. 24

For the *Nobility* and *Gentry*: That he would endow them with such vertue & spiritual graces, as can only truly enoble them, whereby they may be made the children of God, and heirs of Heaven: that they may strive to become as eminent members in the *Mystical* Body, as they are in the *Civil*.

For all inferior Magistrates; those more especi-

ally under whose Jurisdiction we live, that they
Exod. 18. 21. may be *men of courage, fearing God*, wise and faithful in their places, *Haters of reward, and without respect of persons.*

See before in the duties of the 2 & 4 Commandment.

For *Ministers*: More particularly, those to whose charge we belong. That God would root out of the Church all ignorant, scandalous, factious Ministers, and *send forth faithful labourers into his harvest*; that he would give unto all his people *Pastors after his own heart*, such as may be peaceable,
Mat. 9. 38 and gracious in their lives, painful and powerful
Jer. 3. 15. in their doctrine, such diligent watchmen as may with wisdom & fidelity discharge the office com-
Col. 4. 17 mitted to them, *taking heed to their Ministry to fulfil it.* That they may not prostitute their holy callings, to serve the interests of men; but may be truly conscionable both in their lives and Ministry, that they may *save themselves, and them that hear them:* that he would support them under all opposition and contempt that they meet with.

For all *Nurseries* of good Learning & true Religion, that he would purge & reform them from all their corruptions, uphold & encourage them against the opposition of all unreasonable men.
Mat. 15. 13 That he would *root up every plant which our Heavenly Father hath not planted.* That he would *take*
Joh. 15. 2. *away those branches which bear no fruit, and purge those which do bring forth fruit, that they may bring forth more:* that those places may abound in *trees of*
Isa. 61. 3. *righteousness*, which being *planted by the rivers of*
Psal. 1. 3. *water, may bring forth their fruit in due season:* that
Can. 4. 16 he would *blow upon those Gardens, that the spices thereof may flow out.* That he would water them with

with the dew from Heaven, and make them flouriſhing and fruitful.

That he would *caſt ſalt into thoſe fountains, and heal the waters thereof both from death and barrenneſs*, That from thence may proceed ſuch wholſome ſtreams as may refreſh the thirſty corners of the Land, that thoſe *fountains may never be dried up*, and that they may not *ſend forth bitter waters*. 2 King. 2. 21. Hoſ. 13. 15. Jam. 3. 11.

For the *Common people*: That he would make them humble, peaceable, charitable, ſtedfaſt in the faith, not ſo eaſily carried about with every wind of Doctrine: zealous for the eſtabliſhment of peace and truth: That he would diſpel thoſe Miſts of Ignorance and Profaneſs which do ſo much abound in many corners of the Nation.

That all orders & degrees of men, in their ſeveral *places* & *callings*, may join together for the glorifying of his name, the eſtabliſhment of peace & juſtice, & the propagation of his Truth & Goſpel.

2. We ſhould intercede for our *private* or domeſtical relations; for thoſe to whom we are tied by blood and affinity, for *our brethren and kindred according to the fleſh*; that God would make them near unto him by *grace*, as they are unto us by *nature*; that they may be all careful *to do the will of our heavenly Father*, and by that means become *the brethren and kindred of Chriſt*: That we may be ready to expreſs our mutual affections to one another, by a ſpecial care and endeavour to promote our ſpiritual well-beings. See before in the fifth Commandment. Rom. 9. 3. Mat. 10. 50.

Beſides the relations of *Order*, we ſhould likewiſe pray for thoſe to whom we are related By any ſpecial friendſhip or kindneſs; for thoſe

that do remember us in their prayers: for such as have been any ways instruments of our good, either in our souls, bodies, or estates: That God would remember them for good in the day of their trouble, and recompence them an hundred fold into their own bosoms, for all the kindness that we have received from them.

Psal. 35. 13, 14. Mat. 5. 44 Acts 7. 60 And so on the contrary, for our *Enemies*, because their sins do particularly concern us, that their offences against us *may not be laid to their charge*; that he would take pity on such as hate us without a cause, & convert their souls unto himself; & that we may consider them as his instruments in all the wrongs & oppositions which we suffer from them

And lastly, For those that are near unto us by *neighbourhood* and familiar converse. The Towns, Societies, Families, to which we belong, that we may live at peace & unity amongst our selves, faithfully discharging our several duties, adorning our *professions*, *considering one another to provoke unto love and good works*; & that he would be pleased to *dwell with us*, to manifest the tokens of his presence amongst us; to let the *light of his countenance* shine ever upon us, wherby we may be fill'd with righteousness, & peace, & joy in the holy Ghost; that we may be able cheerfully to serve him in our places, & patiently to wait for his *glorious appearing*.

CHAP. XXVI.

Of occasional Intercession for those who are afflicted either in Mind or Body.

OCcasional Intercession, is when we pray for such persons as suffer under any special trou-

trouble or affliction, in whose behalf we may petition in the general, That God would give them *patience* under their afflictions, *profit* by them, and in his good time ease and *deliverance* from them. Of Petitions. See before in the first Commandment.

That God would enable them with quietness and contentment to submit themselves unto every condition which he shall think fittest for them; as believing and considering,

1. That he is the Author of all the miseries which we suffer. *Affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground.* Job 5. 6.

2. That *He makes every thing beautiful and seasonable*; whatsoever comes to pass by his *wise Providence*, is far better then *humain wisdom* could possibly contrive, even those *events* wch do most of all thwart our *private hopes* and *desires* (could all *circumstances* be duly considered) would appear to be most comely & beautiful; & therfore we have reason with *lowliness* & *humility* to submit unto his *wise Providence*, & in all our troubles and confusions, to acknowledg, that *great & marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, & that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.* Eccl. 3. 11. Rev. 15. 13. Psal. 119. 75.

3. We have most justly deserved all that we suffer: *Thou, O Lord, art just in all that is brought upon us, for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly.* The least mercy we enjoy, is far greater then our deserts; and the greatest misery we suffer, is far less then our sins. *Shall we receive good from the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?* Neh. 9. 33. Job 2. 10.

4. That these afflictions are the signs and effects of his love; *for whom he loveth, he chastneth, and* Heb. 12. 6.

correcteth every son whom he receiveth.

5. That every thing shall in the issue prove for the best to them that love him. And that, Verse 11. though *all chastning for the present be grievous, nevertheless afterward it yeeldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousnes to them that are exercised thereby.*

That they may labour to make the right use of their troubles, to *search and try their ways, & turn* Lam. 3 40 *to the Lord. To humble themselves under his mighty* 1 Pet. 5. *hand, that he may exalt them in due time. To cast all* 6, 7. *their care upon him, because he careth for them.* To find out those particular failings wch he aims at in his corrections; to observe & understand his meaning in the troubles that befal us, that we may accordingly apply our selvs to *meet him in his ways.*

These occasions for particular intercession, are distinguishable into several *kinds*, comprehending all manner of *inward* or *outward* exigences, all difficulties & doubts, in respect of any weighty business or temptation; but the two chief kinds of them are, *troubles of Conscience*, *sickness of body.*

See before Ch. 16 1. If the occasion be *trouble of Conscience*, and spiritual desertions, in such cases the Petitions and Arguments before-mentioned in our Deprecation against the guilt of sin, are fitly appliable; to wch may be added such other desires as these:

That God would inable them to believe & consider, that fears, and doubts, & temptations, are an unavoidable part of our Christian warfare; that not only his dearest servants, *Job*, *David*, &c. but also his only Son *Christ* himself hath suffered under them; *that he being touched with a feeling of our infirmities, might be ready to help us in time of* Heb. 4. 16 *need.*

That

That *God is faithful, and will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it.* He hath promised, that *he will not contend for ever, nor be always wroth, lest the spirits of men should fail before him, and the souls which he hath made:* That *though for a small moment he doth forsake us, yet with great mercies will he gather us, though in a little wrath he doth hide his face from us for a moment, yet with everlasting kindness will he have mercy upon us. The Lord upholdeth those that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. He is nigh unto them that be of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* 1 Cor. 10. 13 Isa. 57. 16 Isa. 54. 7, 8 Psal. 145. 14 Psal. 34. 18.

That as for our infirmities, the best men in this life are not without them, nor shall they be imputed to us. *If we do that which we would not, it is no more we that do it, but sin which dwelleth in us:* And as for our wilful sins, if they be particularly repented of, and forsaken, though they be as *red as scarlet*, yet he will purge us from them: if we do count them as a *burden*, and come unto Christ for help, he will ease us of them. Rom. 7. 20 Isa. 1. 17 Mat. 11. 28

That God in the new Covenant does undertake for both parts; that our hopes are not now to be grounded upon our own works or sufficiency, but upon the infallible Promise of God, and the infinite merits of Christ: that if we were without sin, or could do any thing perfectly, we should not, in that respect, have need of a Mediator.

From all which considerations, those who are afflicted with spiritual desertions, may receive sufficient comfort, in respect of their sins *past*,

and for the *future* we ſhould pray in their behalf.

1 Theſ. 5. 8. That God would enable them to *put on the*
1 Tim. 1. 19. *breaſt-plate of faith, and love, and for an helmet the hope of ſalvation.* That they may labour *to keep a good Conſcience*, to be obſervant of all thoſe experiments which they have had of Gods love
Rom. 5. 4. unto them; *for experience worketh hope.*

Unto this head concerning comfort againſt the dejections of mind, & trouble of conſcience, thoſe expreſſions of the *Pſalmiſt* may be fitly applied.

Pſ. 6. 3, 4. *My ſoul is ſore vexed: but thou, O Lord, how long? Return, O Lord, deliver my ſoul; O ſave me for thy mercy ſake.*

Pſal. 25, 16, 17 *Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me, for I am deſolate and afflicted; the troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my diſtreſſes: look upon mine affliction and my pain, and forgive me all my ſins. O keep my ſoul and deliver me: let me not be aſhamed, for I put my truſt in thee. Let integrity and uprightneſs preſerve me.*

Pſal. 27. 9 *O hide not thy face from me, neither caſt thy ſervant away in diſpleaſure.*

Pſ. 31. 16. *Make thy face to ſhine upon thy ſervant: O ſave me for thy mercy ſake.*

Pſa. 40. 11 *Withhold not thou thy tender mercy from me, O Lord; let thy loving-kindneſs and thy truth continually preſerve me, for innumerable evils have compaſſed me about; mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, ſo that I am not able to look up: they are more then the hairs of my head, therfore my heart faileth me. Be pleaſed, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haſt to help me.*

Pſal. 57. 1. *Be merciful unto me, O Lord, be merciful unto me: for under the ſhadow of thy wings ſhall be my refuge, until my calamities be over-paſt.*

In

In the multitude of the ſorrowful thoughts with-in me, let thy comforts, O Lord, delight my ſoul. Pſ. 94.19.

Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearſt unto thy people: O viſit me with thy ſalvation: That I may ſee the good of thy choſen, and rejoice with the gladneſs of thy people, and glory with thine inheritance. Pſal. 106. 4,5.

Do thou ſave me, O Lord, for thy Name ſake, for I am poor and needy, & my heart is wounded within me. Pſal. 109. 21,22

2. If the occaſion be *Sickneſs* of *Body*, in this caſe we ought to intercede for others,

That God would teach them quietly to ſubmit unto his afflicting hand; as conſidering, that diſeaſes do not ariſe meerly from *natural* or *accidental* cauſes, without the particular appointment and diſpoſal of his wiſe Providence, which doth extend to the very hairs of our head, much more to the days of our lives, and the health of thoſe days; and that he is faithful and true, having engaged his promiſe, that all conditions (though never ſo troubleſome, tribulation, and anguiſh, and ſickneſs, and death it ſelf) ſhall work together for the good of thoſe that belong unto him.

That he would ſanctifie their pains and troubles unto them, giving them a true ſight of their ſins, & an unfeigned ſorrow for them, and a ſtedfaſt faith in the merits of Chriſt, for the remiſſion of them: that he would recompence the pains & decays of their bodies, with comfort & improvement in their ſouls: that *as their outward man does decay, ſo their inward man may be renewed daily.* 2 Cor. 4. 16.

That he would fit them for whatever condition he ſhall call them unto, that Chriſt may be unto them both in life & death advantage. That

That, if it be his will, he would recover them from their pains and Diseases, and restore them to their former health: that he would direct them to the most *effectual means* for their recovery, and bless unto them those that have been, or shall be used to that end.

Of this kind are those Petitions of the *Psalmist* for himself.

Psa. 6. 2, 5 *Have mercy upon me, O God, for I am weak: O Lord heal me, for my bones are vexed: for in death there is no remembrance of thee; and who will give thee thanks in the pit?*

Psal. 31. 9 *What profit is there in my blood, if I go down into the pit? shall the dust praise thee? shall that declare*

Psal. 88. 11, 12. *thy truth? Shall thy loving-kindness be declared in the grave, or thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark, or thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?*

Psal. 39. 12, 13 *Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: O spare me a little, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more seen.*

Psal. 119. 75, 76 *I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be my comfort: let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live.*

Job 10. 20, 21. Thus does *Job* petition for himself: *Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, before I go, whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness, and the shadow of death.*

Jer. 17. 14 And thus the Prophet *Jeremiah: Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed: save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.*

For the better strengthning of our *faith & fervency* in

in this deſire, there are ſuch *conſiderations* as theſe.

He hath commanded us to call upon him in the time of trouble, & hath promiſed to deliver us; 'tis in his power alone *to kill and to make alive; to bring down to the grave, and to raiſe up again.* He hath ſtiled himſelf *the God of ſalvation, to whom belong the iſſues of death.* He can give *power to the faint, and to them that have no might, encreaſe of ſtrength.* He has profeſt, that *the death of his Saints* is dear and *precious in his ſight.* He hath promiſed *to ſtrengthen them upon the bed of languiſhing, and to make their bed in their ſickneſs:* he hath ſaid, that *the prayer of faith ſhall ſave the ſick.* He hath permitted us, *concerning his ſons and daughters, to command him,* thereby implying, that in our *interceſſions* for one another, we maybe as ſure of ſucceſs, as we are of thoſe things which are in our own power to command; to wch may be added our former experience of his truth & mercy in the like caſes: from all which we may be encouraged to *come with boldneſs to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy in the time of need.*

Pſa. 50.15
1 Sam. 2.6
Pſa. 68. 20
Iſa. 40. 29
Pſal. 116. 15
Pſal. 41, 3
Jam. 5. 15.
Iſa. 45. 11.
Heb. 4. 16

But if he hath otherways determin'd, & the days of their warfare be accompliſhed, that then he would fit them for death, & make them meet to be partakers of the inheritance of his Saints in light; that they may be *willing to depart, and to be with Chriſt, which is far better* then ſtil to be expoſed to *the evil to come*, to ſinful temptations, pains & diſeaſes of the body, trouble & vexation of the vain world; eſpecially conſidering, that now *death hath loſt its ſting*, and is *ſwallowed up in victory*; & that it was the end of our Saviours paſſion, *to deliver them who through the fear of death have been all their life*

Phil. 1. 23
Iſa. 57. 1.
1 Cor. 15. 54.
Heb. 2. 15.

time

Ro. 8.38. *time ſubject to bondage.* That *neither death, nor life, nor things preſent, nor things to come, ſhall be able to ſeparate us from the love of God in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord.* That by this means we muſt be brought to enjoy the beatifical viſion of God, the bleſſed
Heb. 12. company of *innumerable Angels, and the ſpirits of*
23 *juſt men made perfect.*

That he would be pleaſed to ſhine graciouſly upon them with his favour & reconciled countenance; to fill their hearts with ſuch divine joys as belong unto thoſe that are heirs of a *celeſtial kingdom*, and are ready to lay hold on everlaſting life:

2 Cor. 4. That this *light affliction, which is but for a mo-*
17 *ment, may work for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

2 Cor. 5. 1 That when this their *earthly tabernacle ſhall be diſſolved, they may have an houſe not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

That his bleſſed Angels may convey their ſouls into *Abrahams* boſome.

Now as in ſuch caſes we ſhould thus intercede for *others*, ſo likewiſe may we hence take fit occaſion to pray for *our ſelves.*

That in the diſeaſes & pains of others, we may conſider the frailties of our own condition, the deſert of our own ſins, & may magnifie his ſpecial mercy in ſparing us ſo much, and ſo long.

That we may be more ſeriouſly mindful of our
Job 30.23 latter ends, as knowing that *he will bring us alſo to death, and to the houſe appointed for all the living*; and
Job 16.22 that *when a few days are come, we ſhall go the way whence we ſhall not return*: that we are but *ſtrangers* & *pilgrims* in this world, dwelling in *houſes of clay*, being

being here to day, & not to morrow; in the morning, & not at night; that our days on earth are as a ſhadow, and there is none abiding; our years paſs away as a tale that is told: our life is but as a vapour that appears for a while, & then vaniſheth away; coming forth as a flower that is ſuddenly cut down; flying as a ſhadow, that continueth not: our times are in the hands of God, all our *days are determined, the number of our months is with him: he hath appointed our bounds that we cannot paſs* Job 14.5.

Lord, let me know mine end, and the meaſure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Pſal. 39.4

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wiſdom. Pſ. 90.12

That he would give unto us the Spirit of Judgment, whereby we may diſcern the true difference betwixt this ſpan of life, and the vaſt ſpaces of Immortality; betwixt the pleaſures of ſin for a ſeaſon, and that *everlaſting fulneſs of joy in his preſence.* Betwixt the vain applauſe of men, and the teſtimony of a good Conſcience. Pſ. 16.11.

That in the preſent days of health, and peace, & proſperity, we may treaſure up for our ſelves ſuch ſpiritual ſtrength and comforts, as may hereafter ſtand us in ſtead when we come to lie upon our death-beds, when all other contentments ſhal vaniſh away, & prove unable to help us; when the conſcience of well-doing in any one action, ſhall adminiſter more real comfort to the ſoul, then all our outward *advantages* or *enjoyments* whatſoever.

That our *converſations may be in heaven, from whence we may continually expect the coming of our Lord and Saviour.* That *all the days of our appointed* Phil. 3.20 Job 14.14. *time,*

time, we may wait till our change shall come.

That since we all know, & cannot but be amazed to consider of that dreadful day of judgment, when every one must appear before the Tribunal of God, to receive an eternal doom, according to his works, that therefore he would make us

2 Pet. 3. 11,12,14. *such manner of persons as we ought to be, and hastning unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, & the elements shall melt with fervent heat; that we may labour diligently to be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

CHAP. XXVII.

Concerning Thanksgiving, by enumeration of Temporal Favours.

THE third and last part of Prayer, is *Thanksgiving*. This (according to the method proposed) may be connected with the former, by some fitting *Transition*, which for the matter of it may consist of some such considerations as these:

1. Our confidence of obtaining the things we petition for, by our experience of former Mercies; though they are many and great things which we are suiters for, yet when we reflect upon Gods continual bounty towards us, and how much we do every day receive from him, we have no reason to doubt of his favour, but still to depend upon him in every condition.

2. The danger of ingratitude, in hindring the success of our petitions. He that is not careful to pay

pay his old debts, cannot expect so much credit as to run upon a new score. Under the Law, when any one came before God, to make any special request for himself, he was to bring with him a Peace-offering, that is, an offering of thanks for the favours he hath already enjoyed, thereby to prepare himself for what he expected.

The *matter* of our Thanksgiving is reducible to these 2 general heads: 1. The *Enumeration* of mercies. 2. The *Amplification*, or heightning of them.

1. In our *Enumeration* of mercies, those particulars before mentioned in our *Confessions*, *Deprecations*, *Petitions*, will each of them administer some help, both in respect of *matter* and *expression*, according as our condition may be in respect of *freedom* or *deliverance* from those *evils* which we confess or deprecate, or the enjoyment of those *good things* which we have petitioned for; and upon this account I shall not need to be so large upon this Head, as the former.

2. The *Amplification* or heightning of Mercies, may be either in *General*, by their multitude, greatness, continuance, which is capable of a distinct enlargement by it self. Or else in *Particular*, by their circumstances, degrees, contraries, which are to be insisted upon in the mention of those particular Mercies to which they belong.

1. In the *Enumeration* of Mercies, we are to take notice of those that are either { Ordinary. / Occasional.

By *Ordinary*, I understand such as we enjoy in our common course, without relation to any particular necessity or deliverance: these again are either

ther {Temporal / Spiritual} *Temporal*, are thoſe which concern our well-beings in this life, as we are men, whether in our {Private / Publick} capacities.

The *Private* or perſonal favours which we are to acknowledg, do belong, either *generally* to the whole Man, in reſpect of his Being, Nature, Birth, Education, Preſervation; or more *particularly*, in regard of his Soul, Body, Friends, Name, Eſtate.

In the recital of the Mercies which we enjoy, we are not to be unmindful of thoſe common favours which are beſtowed upon us, in reſpect

1. Of our *Creation* and *Being*, that God did not ſuffer us to be *ſwallow'd up in our primitive nothing.*

2. Our noble *Natures*, that we were not made ſenſleſs things, but endowed with living ſouls, Men, and not Beaſts. He might have made us *worms and no men*; of a deſpicable, periſhable condition, whereas he hath created us after his
Pſa. 8. 5, 6 own Image, but *little lower than the Angels*, capable of enjoying Eternity with himſelf in the heavens. *Crowning us with glory and honour, putting all things in ſubjection under our feet.*

3. Our *Birth:* That we are free-born, not ſlaves; of generous, not baſe & ignominious parentage: that we were brought forth in a *place* and *time* of Religion. He might have ſent us into the world without the pale of the Church, in ſome place of Idolatry or Ignorance, amongſt the blaſpheming *Turks*, or wild *Americans*. We might have been born in thoſe bloody times of *perſecution* & *martyrdom:* and therefore we have reaſon to acknowledg

ledg it for a great mercy, that he hath brought us into this world, both *when* and *where* his Gospel hath been professed, and flourished.

4. Our *Education*, by honest, loving, careful Parents & Tutors, under good Magistrates, pious Ministers in Religious Families. We might have been forlorn, & exposed to the wide world, as many others are, following the *dictates* of our own *corrupt natures*, without any restraint upon us: We might have been put under the *tuition* of such *Governors*, as by their Negligence, Example, Advice, would have encouraged us in evil courses; & therfore we ought to acknowledg it for a great *mercy*, that we have had such Religious & ingenuous education.

5. Our *Preservation*; God might have cut us off in the womb, & being children of wrath, he might from thence have cast us into hell; & therfore we have reason to praise him: In that he hath *covered us in our mothers womb, where we were fearfully and wonderfully made, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* Being *clothed with skin, and flesh, fenced with bones & sinews:* Where *he granted us life and favour, and by his visitation hath preserved our spirits. He took us out of the womb, and made us hope when we were yet on our mothers breasts: We were cast upon him from the womb, and he is our God from our mothers belly.* He might many times since, justly have snatched us out of this *world*, with our *sins*, & fears upon us. *It is from the Lords mercies that we are not yet consumed, because his compassions fail not.* Psal. 139. 13, 14. Job 10.11 12. Psal. 22.9 10. Lam. 3.22

There may be many now in hell, who have not been so great sinners as we; and therefore we are bound to magnifie his Name for his good providence over us through the *whole course* of *our lives.*

Psal. 4. 8. That he hath hitherto *made us to dwell in safety*; and watched over us in journeys, sicknesses, and common dangers, whereby so many others have been surprised, and swept away round about us;
Psa. 91. 4, 11. for *defending us under the shadow of his wings, & protecting us by his blessed Angels*; more particularly for his preservation of us the {Night / Day} past.

1. The *Night past*, for refreshing our bodies with
Psa. 13. 3. rest and sleep. For *lightning our eyes, that we slept not to death.* For bringing us to the light of another day; and that notwithstanding those many
Psal. 92. 1 opportunities which we have formerly abused. *It is a good thing to give thanks unto thee, O Lord, and to sing praises unto thy Name, O thou most high. To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.* He might have made our beds to be our graves, and surprized us with our last
Job 7. 3, 4 sleep. He might *appoint wearisome nights for us, so that when we lie down, we should say, when shall we arise, and the night be gone? and should be full of tossings to and fro, unto the dawning of the day:* When
Ver 13, 14 we expect that *our beds should comfort us, and our couch ease our complaint, then he might scare us with dreams, and terrifie us through visions*; and therefore
Prov. 3. 24. we have very great reason to praise him for our freedom in this kind, that *when we lie down*, he makes our *sleep sweet unto us.*

2. The *Day* past, that he hath not given us over to the sinfulness of our own natures, the subtilty and malice of the *Devil*, the temptations of the *World*, but hath by his good *providence* withheld us from many of those *sins* and *dangers*, to which of our selves we were exposed. There are *many others* in the

the world, who have this day (perhaps) been surprised by some mischief, or have fallen into some great sin, and the same might have been our condition; and therfore we have reason to be sensible of his favor in exempting us from it; that he hath in any measure afforded us direction, and success in our affairs, and not blasted our endeavours; accompanying us in our goings out, and comings in. *Because the Lord hath commanded his loving-kindness in the day, therefore in the night shall my song be unto him, and my prayer unto the God of my life.* Psal. 42.8

Next to these, we may recite those temporal favours which do more *particularly* concern us,

either in our { Souls. Bodies. Friends. Names. Estates.

1. Our *Souls*, in respect of our *Understandings, Memories, Consciences, Affections*. That we were not made idiots or blockish; we might have been possessed with stupidity and forgetfulness, *with madness, and astonishment of heart*; with wild, and raving passions: And therefore we have reason to be sensible of that great favour we enjoy, in respect of the clearness of our understandings, strength of our memories, peace in our consciences, moderateness in our affections, *&c.* Deut. 28. 28.

2. Our *Bodies*, in regard of Health, Senses, Limbs. That he doth *not send upon us sore sicknesses, and of a long continuance*, and make us prisoners to the bed of languishing. That he does not *chasten us with strong pain upon our beds, so that our life should abhor bread, and our soul dainty meat.* That we are Deut. 28. 59. Job 33. 19, 20.

not tormented with grievous aches, with *loathsom* diseases & sores; that we have the free use of our sences; not blind, or deaf, or dumb, *&c.* that we are sound and perfect in our *limbs*, not maimed, or deformed, as many *others* are, wherby their *condition* is made very *uncomfortable*, in comparison of ours. 3. Our *Friends:* That God hath inclined the hearts of others to shew us any favour; that we do enjoy the *acquaintance* of such, in whose society & converse, we may relieve & refresh our selves amidst the many perplexities that we shall meet with; 'tis the case of many others to be left in a forlorn, and friendless condition, with *Ishmael*, to have every mans hand against them; and therefore we have great reason to bless God for raising us up friends and benefactors, & continuing them to us.

4. Our *Names:* That he hath bestowed upon us any reputation in the hearts & reports of others; and not given us over to such scandalous sins as would have made us a proverb & reproach, that we are not *Cains*, to kill our brethren, nor *Amnons* to commit incest; nor *Absaloms*, to attempt the ruin of our Parents; nor *Judah*'s, to murder our *selves*. The seeds & principles of all these abominations being in our natures, it must needs be acknowledged for a great mercy to be withheld from them. That he hath in any measure restrained the *malicious tongues* of others from aspersing of us.

5. Our *Estates:* and therein for plenty, liberty, quietness, suitableness: God might have placed us in some needy, slavish, unquiet condition, in some Calling disproportionable to our inclinations & gifts; & therefore we have reason to acknowledg his mercy, in bestowing upon us competency of means,

means, freedom, & seemlineſs of condition, where-
in we are not forced to flatter or borrow, fitneſs
of calling, &c. That we have opportunity *to ſerve* Deut. 28.
the Lord our God with joyfulneſs, and with gladneſs of 48.
heart, in the abundance of all things. Whereas, 'tis the
caſe of many others, that they are forced *to ſerve*
their enemies in hunger, & in thirſt, and in nakedneſs,
and in want of all things. There may be ſome poor
Chriſtians, perhaps, at this time under cruel *reſtraint*
& impriſonment; others it may be wallowing in
their blood, by reaſon of bitter & fierce perſecu-
tions for their bearing *witneſs* unto *the truth of Je-* Eph. 5. 21
ſus. Other precious Saints, *of whom the world is not* Heb. 11.
worthy, *may* be now under great neceſſities, *wan-* 37, 38
dering up & down in deſerts, & mountains, being deſti-
tute, afflicted, tormented; having not a place whereon
to reſt their heads. Whereas, 'tis our *happineſs*, that
we are ſupplied with all things convenient for us,
having bread to eat, and clothes to put on, & many o- Gen. 1. 29
ther particular favours, which are renewed to us
every moment. The very continuance and com-
monneſs of which doth take away their obſervation.
And as we are thus to remember *private* mercies,
ſo likewiſe ſhould we take notice of thoſe *tempo-*
ral favours which concern the *publick*, the peace,
plenty, ſtrength, ſafety of the Nation wherein we
live. For that every one may *ſit under his own vine* Mic. 4. 4.
and fig-tree, there being none to make us afraid. That 2 Chron.
he hath not delivered us to trouble, and aſtoniſhment, 29. 8.
and to hiſſing. That whereas his anger, and his fury Jer. 7. 20.
hath been poured out upon other places, upon man, and
upon beaſt; upon the beaſts of the field, and upon the
fruit of the ground; yet the overflowing ſcourge hath
not come upon us. He might make us a reproach, and a Iſa. 28. 15.

taunt, and an astonishment unto the Nations that are
Eze. 5. 15. *round about us. Executing upon us judgment in anger,*
and in fury, and in furious rebukes. He might in-
Isa. 19. 13, fatuate our Governours, *and mingle a perverse spirit*
14. *in the midst of them.* This is the condition of other
places, and we have reason to praise him, if it be
not so with us.

In a more special manner, we ought to take no-
tice of our freedom, or deliverance from *those sore*
Ez. 14. 21 *judgments, the Sword, the Famine, and the Pestilence,*
Psal. 144. 1. For our *Peace*; for *delivering us from the hurt-*
10, 14. *ful sword, that there is no breaking in, nor going out, nor*
any complaining in our street; whereas he might
Deut. 32. *whet his glittering sword, and make his hand take hold*
42. *of Judgment, till his arrows be drunk with blood, and*
Psal. 147. *his sword to devour flesh:* Yet he hath *made peace in*
14. *our borders*, so that *violence is not heard in our land,*
nor wasting or destruction within our borders. Where-
Isa. 60. 18. as other Countrys are made desolate, so that *their*
Judg. 5. 6, *high-ways are untrodden, and the travellers walk*
7. *through by ways, and the inhabitants of the villages*
cease. Yet he hath been pleased to make us like
Ez. 36. 35. *the Garden of* Eden, *our Cities being fenced and in-*
Jer. 16. 5. *habited*; and hath not *taken away our peace from*
us, his loving-kindness and mercies.

2. For our *Plenty*; that he hath (according to
Ezek. 36. his promise) *called for the corn and wine, and increa-*
29. *sed it, and laid no famine upon us, multiplying the*
fruit of the trees, and the increase of the field, that we
do not receive the reproach of the famine amongst the
Psal 65. 11. *Heathen.* For *crowning the year with goodness, and*
making his paths to drop fatness.
Hos. 2. 23. 1. For bestowing upon us the *former and the latter*
Jer. 15. 24 *rain moderately, and in his season*; that he *does not*

per-

persecute us with his tempests, and make us afraid with his storms; nor sweep us away with a general deluge, as he did the old world. Ps. 83. 15

2. *For visiting the earth, and watering it, and greatly enriching it with the river of God, providing for the corn, setling the furrows thereof, and making it soft with showers, and blessing the springing thereof*; so that *the pastures are cloathed with flocks, and the valleys are covered over with corn*; for that he hath *sent us a plentiful rain, whereby he hath confirmed and refreshed his inheritance when it was weary.* Ps. 65. 9. Psal. 68. 9

3. For *healthful seasons*, that he hath delivered us from *the noisome Pestilence*, that walketh in darkness, and from *the destruction that walketh at noon-day*, so that *no evil doth befall us, nor any plague come nigh our dwellings*, but hath *satisfied us with long life, and shewed us his salvation. That he hath not made the land to spue out her inhabitants.* Psal. 91. 3. Vers. 10. Vers. 16. Lev. 18. 25

CHAP. XXVIII.

Of the kinds of Spiritual Mercies to be enumerated.

THese *Temporal* favours which we ought thus to *enumerate*, though they are very excellent in themselves, and far beyond our deserts, yet are common with us, to *hypocrits*, & such as shall hereafter be damned; and therefore 'tis requisite that we should after a more especial manner magnifie his glorious name for those *spiritual* mercies that concern our eternity. Chiefly for the Lord Jesus Christ, *the author and finisher of our faith*, the fountain of all the other *mercies* wch we enjoy, for his Birth, Incarnation, Sufferings, Death, Resurrection

Ascension, Intercession, with all those unspeakable
Eph. 1. 3. benefits that we receive by them; for *blessing us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

More particularly, for those remarkable effects of his love and merits in our

Eph. 1. 5. 1. *Election:* For that God hath *predestinated us unto the adoption of Children by Jesus Christ, to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, whereby he hath made*
2 Th. 2. 13 *us accepted in the beloved*, and hath *from the beginning chosen us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.* He might have designed us for vessels of wrath, as he did the fallen Angels, and then we had been eternally undone, without all possible remedy. There was nothing to move him in us, when we lay altogether in the general heap of mankind. It was his own free grace and bounty that made him to take delight in us, to chuse us out from the rest, and to sever us from those many thousands in the world, who shall perish everlastingly.

2. *Redemption:* For that incomprehensible miracle of his wisdom & mercy, in the *contrivance* of our *redemption* by the death of Christ; for he hath
Eph. 1. 7, redeemed us *by the precious blood of his dear Son,*
Col. 1. 13, *who is the Image of the Invisible God, the first-born of*
14. *every creature, who gave himself a ransom for all.*

1 Tim. 2 6 3. *Vocation:* That he hath *called us by the Gospel,*
2 Th. 2. 14 *to the obtaining of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ;*
2 Tim. 1. 9 And that with an *holy calling, not according to our own works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*

4. *Justification:* For pardoning our sins, the least

of

of wch would have been enough to have undone us to all eternity; for that he hath *forgiven our treſpaſſes, blotting out the hand-writing of Ordinances, that was againſt us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the croſs*; for the *remiſſion of our ſins through the blood of Chriſt, according to the riches of his grace, wherein he hath abounded towards us in all wiſdom and prudence.* Coloſ. 2. 13. 14. Eph. 1. 7, 8

5. *Sanctification:* For renewing upon our ſouls in any meaſure the bleſſed Image of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the leaſt glimpſe whereof is infinitely more worth than the whole world: For that he hath changed our vile natures, & made us partakers of the divine nature: Of *ſtrangers* and *foreigners*, raiſing us up to *be fellow-Citizens with the Saints, & of the houſhold of God.* Making us *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light; in delivering us from the power of darkneſs, and tranſlating us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.* Eph. 2. 19 Col. 1. 12. 13.

And becauſe our Sanctification is conſiderable, both according to the { Parts / Means } of it, therefore it may be further amplified by each of theſe.

1. For the *Parts* of it, both in reſpect of our Judgments, Affections, Converſations.

1. For our *Judgments*, that he hath not given us over to blindneſs of mind, a reprobate ſenſe, to wild & deſperate errors, by which we ſee ſo many others deluded, but hath in ſome meaſure revealed unto us thoſe myſteries of godlineſs which are hid from many wiſe and great ones of the world. And hath, *according to his divine power, given us all things pertaining to life and godlineſs, through the knowledg of him that hath called us to glory & vertue.* 2 Pet. 1. 3.

2. For

4. For our *Affections:* That he hath not given us over to hardness of heart, slightness of spirit; that he hath in any measure weaned our souls from looking after solid contentment in the creatures and raised them up to any love of holiness, any desire of a nearer communion with himself.

3. For our *Conversations:* That he hath in any
2 Cor. 4. 2 measure enabled us to do him service, *to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty*; to walk in some de-
Eph. 5. 11. gree *as becomes children of light. Having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness*; not *allowing* our selves in any course which we know to be *unlawful*.

The *Means* of our Sanctification, are principally these five.

1. His *Spirit*, To convince, direct, assist, comfort us, to prevent, and follow us with his grace, to support us in afflictions, to strengthen us in temptations, to quicken us to duty, and to seal us up unto the day of redemption.

Heb. 4. 12. 2. His *Word*, So powerful in *discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart*, able to make us
2 Tim. 3. wise unto salvation; being *profitable for doctrine*,
16. *for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*; for his holy and righteous *Law*; for the many gracious invitations and promises in his *Gospel*.

3. The *Sacraments:* That he hath not left us as strangers, *without* the *Covenant* of *promise*, but hath ordained visible signs & seals, to represent that to our *senses*, wch we ought to *apprehend* by our faith.

4. The *Sabbaths* & publick Ordinances: that we have liberty to behold the face of God in his Sanctuary and to inquire in his Temple, that amidst some

some outward troubles, *the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet our Teachers are not removed into corners, but our eyes may see them.* That *vision does not fail* in our days, that we are not punished with *a famine of the Word*; that *the Sun does not go down upon our Prophets.* Isa. 30.20 1 Sam. 3.1 Am. 8. 11. Mic. 3. 6.

5. The *Communion of Saints:* for the benefit that we enjoy by their examples, counsels, experience. For all those who have been instruments of our good by their Prayers, Writing, Preaching, &c.

6. For *Hopes of Glory:* For *giving unto us exceeding great, and precious promises; that by these we might be partakers of the Divine nature.* Having according to his *abundant mercy begotten us again unto a lively hope of an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.* For lifting up the light of his countenance upon us, which is better than life it self: for any comfortable Evidences of our own Salvation. 2 Pet. 1. 4. 1 Pet. 1. 3, 4.

CHAP. XXIX.

Of occasional Thanksgiving, either for inward, or outward mercies.

BEsides these several heads of Thanksgiving, by which we should be directed in our *ordinary* and usual course, there are others likewise not to be neglected, which are extraordinary and *occasional*, according as our particular wants and exigences may be.

In the *General*, we are to be thankful for the success of our prayers, whenever *God* doth vouchsafe to grant and hear our requests, either in the behalf of our selves, or others; that instead of rejecting

rejecting of our services, & casting them back as dung into our faces (wch we might justly expect) He does vouchsafe to accept of them, & to return them with a blessing; more particularly, upon any special { Preservation / Recovery / Deliverance } either of the { Soul. / Body.

1. In case of *inward* fears, desertions, temptations.
Ps. 94. 19. For that *in the multitude of our sorrows, his comforts*
Ps. 51. 12. *have refreshed our souls.* For that he hath *restored unto us the joy of his salvation, and established us with his*
Ps. 18. 16. *free spirit.* Delivering us from *those deep waters*, that were ready to overwhelm our souls; for bringing
Psa. 40. 2. us out of *an horrible pit, out of the miry clay*, & set-
Ps. 107. 14 ting our feet upon a rock, freeing us *from darkness and the shadow of death, and breaking our bonds in*
Rev. 3. 10 *sunder*; *for keeping us in the hour of temptation.*

2. In the case of *outward* exigences and troubles,
Gen. 28. 15. for delivering us in *journys*; that he hath *been with us, and kept us in our places whether we did go, and brought us again in safety*; whereas many *others* have been overtaken with desperate mischiefs. For defending us in common dangers, oppressions; for hedging us about with his favour & protection,
Psal. 102. 24. that he hath *not called us away in the midst of our days, but hath holden our souls in life, and not suffered*
Psal. 66. 9. *our feet to slip*; for being our refuge in distress, and
Deut. 33. 27. *putting his everlasting arms under us*; for *binding up our soul in the bundle of life*; for *hiding us in the*
1 Sam. 25. 29. *time of trouble in his pavilion, in the secret of his Tabernacle*, under the shadow of his wings: for being
Ps. 27. 5. Isa. 25. 4. a *strength to the poor, and to the needy in their distress*; *a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is a storm against*

the

the wall; for *breaking the bands of the yoke, and the rod of the oppressors, and delivering us out of the hands of them that served themselves of us*; for the *comforts that we have had in all our tribulations.* Ezek. 34. 27. 2 Cor. 1. 4

For delivering us from sore pains, and desperate sicknesses of body, when we had reason to think, and say, that we should *go down to the gates of the grave, & be deprived of the residue of our years, & not see the Lord in the land of the living; nor see man any more, with the inhabitants of the world; but our age is removed from us as a shepherds tent, and we shall be cut off with pining sickness, from day even to night will he make an end of us*; yet then did he, *in love to our souls, deliver us from the pit of corruption; therefore will we sing songs unto him all the days of our life.* Isa. 38. 10. 11. Verse 17. Verse 20.

I will extoll thee, O Lord, for thou hast lifted me up; thou hast brought up my soul from the Grave, and hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Thou hast turned my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness: To the end, that my glory may sing praise unto thee, and not be silent; O Lord, my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever. Isa. 30. 1, 3 Ver. 11. 12

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice, and my supplications, because he hath enclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live: He hath delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? I will take the cup of salvation, and will call upon the Name of the Lord. I will offer unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, I will pay my vows unto the Lord, now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lords house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Psal. 116. 1, 2. Vers. 8. Vers. 12, 13. Ver. 17. 18, 19.

I cal-

Psa. 118. 5 Vers. 18. Vers. 21. *I called upon the Lord in distress, the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. He hath chastned me sore, but he hath not given me over to death. I will praise thee, for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.*

Ps. 103. 2. Vers. 4. *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with loving-kindness and mercy.*

CHAP. XXX.

Of the Amplification of Mercies. The Conclusion.

BEsides the *Enumeration* of Mercies, we may likewise find abundance of matter for the *Amplification*, or heightning of them, which may be either in { General. / Particular.

1. In the *General*, by their { Multitude. / Greatness. / Continuance.

Ps 40. 5. 1. From their multitude: *Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts, which are to us-ward, they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbred.* Psal. 139. 17, 18. *How precious are thy thoughts unto me, O God, how great is the sum of them? If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand.*

2. From the greatness of those Mercies we receive, which may appear by consideration of the { Giver. / Receiver.

1. The *Giver*, the Great God, who is of Infinite, incomprehensible power. *The heavens are full of the Majesty*

Majesty of his glory, of absolute perfection, and all-sufficiency in himself, and cannot expect any addition from mans love, or gratitude. *My goodness extendeth not unto thee.* Now the greatness of the person, doth add a value to the favour; 'tis counted an honour but to kiss a Kings hand. Psal. 16. 2

2. The *Receivers*. So vile and despicable in comparison of him, as *creatures*; so loathsome and abominable before him, as *sinners*; *when we were nothing*, he took care of us: And since we have been worse than nothing, *Enemies*, he hath been pleased to pay a price for our reconciliation to him. *He is kind to the unthankful, and to the evil*, to those that do *neither seek nor ask* after him; and at the best, can return nothing to him again, but some poor words or thoughts, which bear no commensuration to those real infinite mercies which we receive from him. *Can a man be profitable unto God? Is it any benefit to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? Or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect? Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man, that thou visitest him? Behold, I am less than the least of thy mercies.* Now the vileness and unworthiness of the receiver, may be another argument to set forth the greatness of the gift. Rom. 9. 11. Rom. 5. 10. Luk. 6. 35. Rom. 10. 20. Job 22. 2, 3. Psal. 8. 4. Gen. 32. 10.

3. From their *Continuance*. *The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.* He had thoughts of love to us, before ever the world was made, and *his mercy endureth for ever*, till time shall be no more. His favour is renewed to us every moment, and that notwithstanding our continual provocations against him. Psal. 103. 17.

From these and the like considerations, we should labour to affect our souls with wonder & thanks

thanks, to quicken and raiſe up our hearts in offering up unto God the ſacrifice of praiſe, that we may come before his Throne with *Hallelujahs*, loud voices of joy and thankfulneſs.

2. The particular amplification of mercies from their *Circumſtances*, *Degrees*, *Contraries*, hath been touched upon already, in the Enumeration of their ſeveral *kinds* and acts of favour, to which the arguments of this kind may be properly annexed.

The *Concluſion* ſhould conſiſt of ſome brief affectionate Doxologies, which may both expreſs and excite our love and confidence; ſuch are thoſe Scripture expreſſions.

Pſa. 71. 15 *My mouth ſhall ſhew forth thy righteouſneſs, and ſalvation all the day long; for I know no end thereof.*

Pſa. 72. 18 *Bleſſed be the Lord God of Iſrael, who only doth wondrous things; and bleſſed be his glorious Name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, Amen.*

Pſ 103. 2. *While I live, will I praiſe the Lord; I will ſing praiſes to my God, whilſt I have any being.*

Pſal. 145. 1, 2. *I will extoll thee, O God, my King, and I will bleſs thy Name for ever and ever. Every day will I bleſs thee, and praiſe thy Name for ever and ever.*

Eph. 3. 20, 21. *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can aſk or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto him be glory in the Church of Chriſt Jeſus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Rev 5. 13 Rev. 7. 12 Rev. 19. 1 *Bleſſing, and honour, and glory, and power, and ſalvation, and thankſgiving be unto the Lord our God for ever and ever.*

FINIS.